AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GUISBOROUGH NORTH LOCAL PLAN

CLEVELAND

MAFF

Leeds Regional Office

January 1990

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE GUISBOROUGH NORTH LOCAL PLAN, CLEVELAND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The area covered by the Guisborough's Northern Local Plan lies between the proposed bypass to the north and the edge of the town around National Grid Reference NZ 610165. Survey work was carried out in December 1989 when soils were examined by hand auger borings and, where necessary, soil profile pits. Auger borings were located at points predetermined by the national Grid at a density of one boring per hectare.

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Salient Climatic parameters at Guisborough are as follows:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	755
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (Jan-June)	1272
Field Capacity Days	188
Moisture Deficit wheat (mm)	87
potatoes (mm)	73

These factors impose an overall climatic limitation of grade 2 across the whole site.

Slopes are mostly gentle or moderate and do not limit ALC grade.

Altitude ranges from 125 m at Grove Hill in the west to 90 m in the middle part of the area.

1.3 GEOLOGY, SOILS AND DRAINAGE

A mixture of medium and heavy textured drift forms a cover of variable thickness over the underlying Jurassic strata. Soils tend to reflect the nature of the parent material from which they are developed. Heavy textured slowly permeable soils (Wetness Class IV) occur on the heavier drift around

Guisborough Hall and near Sandworth Beck in the west. Soils north of Guisborough however tend to be medium in texture, again with a slowly permeable layer, but slightly better drained (Wetness Class III), whilst around Church Lane and Guisborough Priory, soils are medium or light in texture and well drained (Wetness Class I or II).

1.4 LAND USE

The agricultural land is a mixture of arable and grassland. There is also a considerable number of non agricultural land uses including derelict land, woodland, allotments and school playing fields.

1.5 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

1.5.1 Grade 2 (11.4 hectares/8 % of total area)

Three separate areas towards the eastern end of the site fall within grade 2. Each contains sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoils over similar freely drained subsoils. Gravel or bedrock is often encountered at about 80 cm depth. Droughtiness and the overall climatic limitation prevent these soils being placed in a higher grade.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3a (15.1 hectares/11 % of total area)

Subgrade 3a land occurs in several locations across the site. Common to each area is a moderate soil wetness and workability limitation. Topsoils consist usually of medium or heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam over a similar textured subsoil. These soils are slowly permeable at depth and fall within Wetness Class III.

1.5.3 Subgrade 3b (19.9 hectares/14 % of total area)

Land in this subgrade is similar in many ways to the subgrade 3a land except that soil wetness is more limiting. The increased wetness results from the combination of slightly heavier clay loam topsoils and the presence of slowly permeable layers at a higher level in the profile thereby placing this land in Wetness Class IV.

1.5.4 Grade 4 (14.3 hectares/10 % of total area).

All the grade 4 land has a heavy clay loam topsoil below which is a clayey slowly permeable subsoil (Wetness Class IV). Severe wetness and workability problems are the main limitations on ALC grade on this land.

1.5.5 Non Agricultural (46.5 ha/33 % of total area)

This category includes the wide variety of land uses listed in section 1.4 on Land Use.

1.5.6 Urban (4.7 hectares/3 % of total area)

Sewage works, roads and housing fall within this category.

1.5.7 Not Surveyed (29.4 hectares/21% of total area)

An area to the west of Guisborough was not surveyed because its ownership could not be determined. Access was therefore not possible.

Resource Planning Group
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