MAFF Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BLYTH VALLEY BWLP
POSSIBLE 'WHITE LAND'
SEATON DELAVAL
NORTHUMBERLAND

SEPTEMBER 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 11126

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 8.2 ha of land 1 km north-west of Seaton Delaval was carried out in September 1995.

7.1 ha of this was in agricultural use, of which 1.6 ha falls in Subgrade 3a. This is found to the east of the site. The soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) with medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed permeable sandy clay loam upper subsoils in turn over similar gleyed slowly permeable lower subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil wetness and workability restrictions.

The remainder of the agricultural land falls into Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability restrictions.

The remaining land consists of non-agricultural private gardens to the east and fenced off land to the south (0.3 ha) and woodland to the west (0.8 ha).

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT SEATON DELAVAL, NORTHUMBERLAND. ("BLYTH VALLEY BWLP - POSSIBLE WHITE LAND")

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies 1 km north-west of Seaton Delaval, to the east of the A192. It is centred around National Grid Reference NZ296761. The site covers 8.2 ha and was surveyed in September 1995, when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. Two soil profile pits were dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. 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 the survey all the agricultural land was in permanent grass. The remaining land consists of a non-agricultural private garden and fenced off areas to the south, and woodland along the western edge.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ296761
Altitude (m)	: 40
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1310 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 655
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 163
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 95
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 82

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Carboniferous Coal Measures with a drift cover of till over the whole site.

Soils to the east of the site are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III) with medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed permeable sandy clay loam upper subsoils in turn over gleyed slowly permeable sandy clay loam lower subsoils.

The remaining soils to the west and centre of the site are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. The soils on this site correspond to the Dunkeswick and Foggathorpe 1 Associations as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3a	1.6	19.5
3b	5.5	67.1
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(7.1)	(86.6)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	0.3	3.7
Woodland	0.8	9.7
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(1.1)	(13.4)
TOTAL	8.2	100

2.1 Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs to the east of the site. Soils consist of very slightly stony (2% small and medium hard stones) medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed permeable, very slightly stony (2% small and medium hard stones) sandy clay loam upper subsoils, in turn over gleyed slowly permeable very slightly stony (2% small and medium hard stones) sandy clay loam lower subsoils. The slowly permeable layer begins at round 60 cm depth. These soils are imperfectly drained (Wetness Class III), and this land is limited to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

The remaining agricultural land falls in this subgrade. Soils consist of stoneless medium clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. The slowly permeable layer begins at 35cm depth. These soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), and this land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.3 Non-Agricultural

This land occurs in two areas, a small area of private gardens to the east and fenced off land to the south.

2.4 Woodland

This land occurs in a strip to the east of the site.

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MAP