



Ministry of
Agriculture
Fisheries
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SITES 6, 12, 16 AND 17, NORTHALLERTON
HAMBLETON LOCAL PLAN
NORTH YORKSHIRE
SEPTEMBER 1992

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SUMMARY

A total of 40ha of land was surveyed on 4 sites around Northallerton. 35ha of this is agricultural land of which just over 28ha fall within Subgrade 3b. Only 7.0ha fall within Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a.

Two main soil types occur. The first and by far the most widespread is a poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium over heavy textured soil formed on boulder clay. Land containing these soils is restricted to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness. The second occurs locally where coarser textured loamy or sandy material forms a superficial layer over the underlying boulder clay. The resulting somewhat lighter soils are better drained (Wetness Class I-II) but slightly droughty and are limited to Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a by either slight winter wetness or summer droughtiness.

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HAMBLETON LOCAL PLAN
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORTS, NORTHALLERTON AREA

1. INTRODUCTION

Survey work was carried out on sites 6, 12, 16 and 17 around Northallerton on 28 September 1992 when soils were examined at points pre-determined by the National Grid. The overall survey density was one or two borings per hectare depending on site size, with additional borings being made, where necessary, to refine grade boundaries.

Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England Wales", (MAFF 1988).

Climate and Relief

One representative climatic datapoint in the centre of Northallerton was used for all 4 sites which lie within 1.5km of the town centre. This information is replicated for each individual site and recorded within the sections dealing with individual sites:

All 4 sites are level or very gently undulating.

Land Use

At the time of the survey most of the survey areas were under agricultural production. As some sites contain areas of urban and non-agricultural land, land use for each site is recorded within the sections dealing with the individual sites.

Geology and Soils

All 4 sites are covered by drift deposits of boulder clay and glaciofluvial sand and gravel which form a thick cover over the underlying Triassic Mercia Mudstones (formerly Keuper Marl).

Soils formed on these deposits are variable. Topsoils range from medium sandy loam to heavy clay loam and overlie a similar range of subsoil textures. Drainage status varied from well drained (Wetness Class I) on the coarse deposits to poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) where subsoil textures are heavy and slowly permeable.

2. SITE 6 (NORTHALLERTON ROAD)

Site 6 lies south of Brompton, around National Grid Reference SE 369954, between the Northallerton-Stockton railway and Northallerton Road.

It covers an area of 6.7 hectares, 40% of which is in agricultural use. Urban and non-agricultural land consists of a track, rugby field and agricultural buildings at Halfway House Farm.

Geology and Soils

Boulder clay forms a thick cover over the underlying Triassic Mercia Mudstone (Keuper Marl).

Soils are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and consist of permeable medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils.

Climate

Climatic Grid Point

(central to the 4 sites)	SE 370937
Altitude (m)	50
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (January-June)	1333 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	635
Climatic Grade	1
Field Capacity Days	153
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	88

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
2	2.69	40.0
Urban	0.17	2.5
Non Agricultural	3.32	49.4
Agricultural Buildings	0.54	8.1
TOTAL	6.72	100.0

Grade 2

All agricultural land on the site falls within Grade 2. Soils consist of medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoil. Profiles are moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) and the main factors limiting ALC grade are slight winter soil wetness along with slight summer droughtiness.

Urban

Urban land consists of a track leading to Halfway House.

Non Agricultural Land

This consists of the rugby field.

Agricultural Buildings

This category includes the farmhouse and outbuildings at Halfway House Farm.

3. SITE 12 (THIRSK ROAD)

Site 12 is centred on Grid Reference SE 371924 and lies approximately 2km south of Northallerton town centre. The eastern boundary is the A168 and the western boundary the main London-Edinburgh railway.

It covers an area of 17.9ha, 97% of which is in agricultural use. At the time of survey the agricultural land was divided between arable and permanent grassland.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Mercia Mudstone (formerly Keuper Marl) and overlain by deposits of boulder clay and, in the north west, deposits of glacial sand and gravel.

Soils are typically medium to heavy-textured, consisting of medium clay loam topsoils overlying medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils.

Profiles are generally imperfectly or poorly drained (falling in Wetness Classes III or IV) but well-drained or moderately well-drained profiles occur in parts of the north and east of the site.

Climate

Climatic Grid Point

(Central to the 4 sites)	SE 370937
Altitude (m)	50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	1333 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	635
Climatic Grade	1
Field Capacity Days	153
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	88

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
2	1.46	8.1
3a	2.93	16.3
3b	12.98	72.4
(Sub total)	(17.37)	(96.8)
Urban	0.19	Urban 1.1
Farm Woodland	0.16	0.9
Agricultural Buildings	0.21	1.2
TOTAL	17.93	100.0

Grade 2

Land in this grade occurs in the north west of the site. Soils are typically well-drained or moderately well-drained (falling in Wetness Classes I or II) and consist of sandy clay loam topsoils overlying medium sandy loam upper subsoils. A slowly permeable sandy clay loam lower subsoil occurs in places, and this land is limited to Grade 2 by a slight soil droughtiness or soil wetness limitation.

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land occurs in the east and north east of the site. Profiles are imperfectly drained (falling in Wetness Class III) and typically consist of medium clay loam topsoils overlying medium clay loam or sandy clay loam upper subsoils followed by a heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoil. The lower subsoils are slowly permeable and the land is, thus, limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness.

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs over most of the centre and south of the site. Generally medium clay loam topsoils overlie slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Profiles are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and the land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

Urban

This category includes a track in the west of the site.

Farm Woodland

This refers to a band of woodland in the centre of the site.

Agricultural Buildings

This category includes an area of farm outbuildings in the south east of the site and another in the south west.

SITE 16 (DARLING ROAD WEST)

Site 16 is located at Grid Reference SE 358954 between the Darlington Road (A167) and the main London-Edinburgh railway.

The site covers an area of approximately 9 hectares, 98% of which is in agricultural use. At the time of survey all agricultural land was under permanent pasture.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Mercia Mudstone (formerly Keuper Marl) and overlain by deposits of boulder clay.

Soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed, poorly drained clay subsoils.

Climate

Climatic Grid Point

(Central to the 4 sites)	SE 370937
Altitude (m)	50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January to June)	1333 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	635
Climatic Grade	1
Field Capacity Days	153
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	88

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
3b	8.72	97.7
Urban	0.11	1.2
Agricultural Buildings	0.10	1.1
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TOTAL	8.93	100.0
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Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land falls within this subgrade. Soils consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying clay subsoils. These are gleyed and slowly permeable starting at depths of between 10cm and 35cm. Profiles as a result are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and the land is limited to Subgrade 3b by soil wetness and workability restrictions.

Urban

This consists of the farm, access track.

Agricultural Buildings

This category includes the buildings at North Moor Farm.

SITE 17 (DARLINGTON ROAD EAST)

Site 17 is located at Sheepcote Close east of Darlington Road (A167) around National Grid Reference SE 363952 approximately 1½ Km north of Northallerton centre.

It covers an area of approximately 6.5 hectares, all of which is in agricultural use. At the time of the survey all agricultural land was in permanent pasture.

Geology and Soils

The site is underlain by Mercia Mudstone (Keuper Marl) over which there is a thick cover of boulder clay. Soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) and consist mainly of heavy clay loam topsoils overlying heavy clay loam and clay subsoils.

Climate

Climate Grid Point

(Centred to the 4 sites)	SE 370937
Altitude (m)	50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	1333 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	635
Climatic Grade	1
Field Capacity Days	153
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	99
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	88

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

The ALC grade occurring on this site is as follows:-

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of total area</u>	<u>Wetness</u>
3b	6.53	100	
TOTAL	6.53	100	

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b

Subgrade 3b land occurs over the whole site. Soils consist of heavy clay loams and topsoils, some of which are mottled and slowly permeable at the surface over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Slowly permeable layers begin at or above 30cm and profiles are poorly drained (wetness Class IV). Land of this type is limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability restrictions.

RPT, Leeds

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