

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN
SITE H6 (5)
APRIL 1993

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

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SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification survey of 8.0 ha of land at Alnwick was carried out in April 1993.

Grade 2 land covers 4.3 ha. The soils are well drained and typically consist of sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy loam or loamy sand subsoils. The ALC grade of this land is limited by the overall climate of the area and, in places, by slight soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b land covers a total of 2.5 ha. The soils are similar to those described above but slopes of 8-11° limit this land to Subgrade 3b.

Grade 4 land covers 1.0 ha in the south-west of the site. The soils are similar to those on the rest of the site but slopes of 12-15° further limit the ALC grade of this land.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT: ALNWICK DISTRICT PLAN,
SITE H6 (5)

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 1Km east of Alnwick town centre and is centred on Grid Reference NU 196 133. Survey work was carried out in April 1993 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. One soil pit was dug to allow the assessment of subsoil structure and to allow samples to be taken for laboratory analysis. 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 the site was under cereals.

Site altitude varies from 35m AOD in the north-east to 65m AOD in the south-west. Most of the site is moderately to steeply sloping (typically 4-15°) with a north-easterly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 196133
Altitude (m)	: 40
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1296 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 683
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 183
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 91
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 77

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Lower Limestone over which lie deep deposits of post glacial sand and gravel.

The soils on the site are well drained (falling in Wetness Class I) and typically consist of sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy loam or loamy sand subsoils. Both topsoils and subsoils are stoneless to very slightly stony, containing up to 4% small and medium-sized sandstones and hard stones. The soils correspond to the Wick Series as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Resource Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2	4.3	53.8
3a		
3b	2.5	31.2
4	1.0	12.5
5		
(Sub total)	(7.8)	(97.5)
Urban	0.2	2.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.2)	(2.5)
	_____	_____
TOTAL	8.0	100
	_____	_____

2.1 Grade 2

Grade 2 land covers much of the centre and north of the site. Profiles are well drained (Wetness Class I) and typically consist of sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy loam or loamy sand subsoils. Both topsoils and subsoils are stoneless to very slightly stony, containing up to 4% small and medium-sized subrounded sandstones and hard stones.

The ALC grade of this land is limited by the overall climate of the area and, in places, by slight soil droughtiness.

2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade occurs in three separate areas in the south, north-east and north-west of the site. The soils are similar to those described above but slopes of 8°-11° prevent the use of some types of machinery, thus limiting this land to Subgrade 3b.

2.3 Grade 4

Grade 4 land occurs in the south-western corner of the site. The soils are similar to those found on the Grade 2 land but slopes of 15° further limit the use of agricultural machinery and it is this factor which limits the land to Grade 4.

2.4 Urban

This category includes a track running from West to east through the centre of the site.

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MAP