



**NORTH TYNESIDE UDP
SITES LE1/4 (KILLINGWORTH MOOR)
AND LE1/1(5) (SHIREMOOR WEST)
TYNE AND WEAR**

**Agricultural Land Classification
Summary Report
January 1997**

**Resource Planning Team
Leeds Statutory Group
ADAS Leeds**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

NORTH TYNESIDE UDP SITES LE1/4 (KILLINGWORTH MOOR) AND LE1/1(5) (SHIREMOOR WEST)

Introduction

1. This report presents the findings of detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys of 84.0 ha of land at Killingworth Moor (site LE1/4) and 18.8 ha of land at Shiremoor West (site LE1/1(5)). The surveys were carried out during January 1997.
2. The surveys were commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Land Use Planning Unit, Northallerton in connection with North Tyneside UDP. These surveys supersede any previous ALC surveys on this land.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Leeds Statutory Group in ADAS. The land has been graded in accordance with the published MAFF ALC guidelines and criteria (MAFF, 1988). A description of the ALC grades and subgrades is given in Appendix I.
4. At the time of survey site LE1/4 was mostly under grassland, some of which was old, permanent grassland with distinct rigg and furrow patterns. The remaining agricultural land was mostly in arable use (winter cereals and oilseed rape) with small areas used for equestrianism and soft fruit. Non-agricultural land consisted of buildings around Holystone Farm, tracks and a railway line.
5. Most of site LE1/1(5) was in agricultural use as grassland and arable land growing winter cereals. A small area of 'other land' consisted of a track.

Summary

6. The findings of the surveys are shown on the enclosed ALC maps. The maps have been drawn at scales of 1:7,500 and 1:5,000. They are accurate at these scales but any enlargement would be misleading.
7. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Site	Area (ha)*			Total
	Subgrade 3b	Grade 4	Other land	
LE1/4	78.8 (93.8%)	1.4 (1.7%)	3.8 (4.5%)	84.0 (100%)
LE1/1(5)	18.0 (95.7%)	-	0.8 (4.3%)	18.8 (100%)

* Bracketed figures denote percentage of total site area

8. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per hectare. A total of 84 borings and 2 soil pits were described on site LE1/4 and 19 borings and 2 soil pits on site LE1/1(5).

9. The distribution of ALC grades and their limiting factors on each site are described below.

Site LE1/4

10. Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land, covers most of the site. Soil profiles are poorly drained, falling within Wetness Class IV. They generally consist of medium textured topsoils overlying gleyed heavy textured subsoils which are slowly permeable. Soil wetness and workability restrict this land to this subgrade.

11. 10.4 ha of the north-east of the site has recently been restored following the extraction of coal by open casting. Soil texture and drainage characteristics on this land are similar to those described in paragraph 10. This part of the site has yet to be released from aftercare and some soil characteristics may be modified before it is returned to agriculture. The ALC grading of this land is, therefore, provisional.

12. Grade 4, poor quality agricultural land, lies to the north-west of Holystone Farm. Soils are similar to those on the rest of the site but drainage is significantly worse and standing water covers this area for much of the year. A severe soil wetness restriction limits this land to Grade 4.

13. Other, non-agricultural, land consists of buildings around Holystone Farm, tracks and a railway line.

Site LE1/1(5)

14. All agricultural land on this site is Subgrade 3b, moderate quality land. Soils are similar to those on site LE1/4, consisting of medium textured topsoils overlying gleyed, slowly permeable, heavy textured subsoils. Soil wetness and workability restrictions limit the ALC grade of this land.

15. Other land consists of a track.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.