



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
Fisheries  
and Food

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
CLEVELAND STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW  
LAND WEST OF STOCKTON,  
YARM BACK LANE, NORTH OF A66  
JANUARY 1994

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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## SUMMARY

A semi-detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 45.3 ha of land at Yarm Back Lane, Stockton was carried out in January 1993.

45.1ha of this was in agricultural use all of which falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) medium and heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. The ALC grade is limited by soil wetness and workability limitations.

The remaining 0.2ha of land are in urban use or are farm and farm buildings.

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1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND WEST OF STOCKTON,  
YARM BACK LANE, FOR CLEVELAND STRUCTURE PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies to the north of the A66, adjacent to Yarm Back Lane, approximately 3km south west of Stockton town centre. It is centred around National Grid Reference NZ409186. Survey work was carried out in January 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings on a semi-detailed basis of one boring every two hectares at points predetermined by the National Grid. 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 most of the site was in permanent pasture, the remainder being urban land. The site is level to gently sloping (0-2°) and lies between 25m AOD and 40m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 409186
Altitude (m)	: 30
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1344 day°C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 583
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 142
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 102
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 92

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Sherwood Sandstone over which there is a covering of boulder clay. Soils across the site consist of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed, slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. These soils are poorly drained falling within Wetness Class IV. Soils on the site correspond to the Dunkeswick Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research 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		
3a		
3b	45.1	99.0
4		
5		
(Sub-Total)	(45.1)	(99.0)
Urban	0.1	0.5
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.1	0.5
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub-Total)	(0.2)	(1.0)
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TOTAL	45.3	100
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## 2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on this site falls within Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of stoneless, poorly drained (Wetness Class IV), medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. The slowly permeable layer occurs at or above 35cm. At the time of survey many of the fields were poached, especially in the northern half of the site. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability limitations.

## 2.2 Farm Buildings

These consist of derelict Hartburn Grange Farm to the south of the site.

## 2.3 Urban

Urban land consists of a private house with adjoining land adjacent to Yarm Back Lane.

MAP