

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Proposed Extension to the Thirsk  
and Northallerton Golf Club

MAFF  
Leeds Regional Office

May 1990

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# 1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE THIRSK AND NORTHALLERTON GOLF CLUB

## 1.1 Introduction

The survey area which covers 22.4 hectares is located around National Grid Reference SE 415849, about 3 km north of Thirsk. Field work for agricultural land classification (ALC) was carried out in early May 1990 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 22 points predetermined by the National Grid. In addition two soil profile pits were dug to collect samples for laboratory analysis and to study soil morphology in greater detail.

## 1.2 Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at the site are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	651
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June)	1334
Field Capacity Days	156
Moisture Deficit wheat (mm)	99
potatoes (mm)	88

These parameters indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation on ALC grade. The land slopes moderately away from a high point of 60 m a.o.d. in the western corner. Average altitude is 55 m a.o.d.

## 1.3 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Soils are all developed on reddish boulder clay. Solid strata does not occur within 1 metre of the surface. Topsoils are usually formed of medium or occasionally heavy clay loam over a reddish, clayey, slowly permeable subsoil (Wetness Class IV). A few profiles are better drained and meet the requirements for soil Wetness Class III.

#### 1.4 Agricultural Land Classification

##### 1.4.1 Subgrade 3a (3.3 hectares, 15% of total area)

Two small areas contain soils with medium clay loam topsoils and upper subsoils over clayey slowly permeable lower subsoils. These soils meet the criteria for Wetness Class III and are limited to subgrade 3a by slight soil wetness and workability problems.

##### 1.4.2 Subgrade 3b (19.1 hectares, 85% of total area)

Most of the site falls within this subgrade. Topsoils consist of medium or heavy clay loam over a reddish, clayey, slowly permeable subsoil (Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness and workability problems are more severe than on the subgrade 3a areas and are the main limitations on ALC grade.

Resource Planning Group  
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