

**ASHFIELD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
SITE Kd 4,
LINDLEY'S LANE, KIRKBY SOUTH**

**Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Summary Report**

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**Resource Planning Team
Eastern Region
FRCA Cambridge**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

ASHFIELD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN, SITE Kd 4, LINDLEY'S LANE, KIRKBY SOUTH

INTRODUCTION

1. This summary report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 19.7 ha of land at Lindley's Lane, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. The site is located on the southern side of Kirkby and is bounded to the south and west by the new Robin Hood railway line. The survey was carried out during August 1997.

2. The survey was carried out by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), in connection with the Ashfield District Local Plan. The findings of this survey supercedes any previous ALC information for this site.

3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Eastern Region of FRCA. 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 the agricultural land was growing winter cereals, wheat and barley, with the barley having been recently harvested, and potatoes. At the northern edge of the site is an area of set-aside and in the north eastern corner is a factory, with an area of disturbed derelict land immediately to its south.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10,000; it is accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.

6. 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

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% surveyed area	% site area
3a	9.6	60.8	48.7
3b	6.2	39.2	31.5
Other land	3.9	N/A	19.8
Total surveyed area	15.8	100	N/A
Total site area	19.7	N/A	100

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per hectare. A total of 18 borings and 3 soil pits was described.

8. The western half of the site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a, (good quality agricultural land) comprising fine loamy soils overlying magnesian limestone at varying depths. The major limitation associated with this land is droughtiness and the severity of the limitation is dependent on the depth to the limestone. Included within this area are profiles of Grade 2 and Subgrade 3b where the limestone depth is either deeper or shallower respectively. A small area of Subgrade 3b has been identified at the north of the site where the fissured limestone lies immediately below the topsoil. In some very localised areas, topsoil stone is also limiting, where the underlying limestone has been ploughed up.

9. A larger area of Subgrade 3b, (moderate quality agricultural land), has been identified through the lower lying central and eastern part of the site where soils developed in Permian Marl have been mapped. These soils have a moderately severe wetness and workability limitation. At the south east corner of the site where the land rises slightly, subgrade 3a has been mapped and wetness/workability is again the main limitation, but lighter soil textures mean that the limitation is less severe.

RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
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SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1970) *Sheet No. 112, Chesterfield, (solid and drift edition)*
1:63,360 scale. BGS : London

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) *Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land*. MAFF: London.

Met. Office (1989) *Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification*.
Met. Office: Bracknell.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) *Sheet 3, Midland and Western England*
SSEW: Harpenden.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1984) *Soils and their Use in Midland and Western England* SSEW: Harpenden

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION 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 that 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 (eg. 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 that restricts use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.