

**SELBY LOCAL PLAN  
PROPOSED RELOCATION OF  
SELBY RUFC**

**Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)  
Maps and Report**

**August 1998**

**Resource Planning Team  
Northern Region  
FRCA, Leeds**

**RPT Job Number: 34-36/98  
MAFF Reference: EL 04891  
LURET Job Number: ME1AFCX**

*LPT 20,355*

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

## SELBY LOCAL PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys of three sites within Selby District. The surveys were carried out during July 1998.
2. The surveys were carried out by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), in connection with the proposed relocation of Selby Rugby Union Football Club.

This report supersedes any previous ALC information for this land.

3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Northern 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 the survey the land use on the sites was as follows:

#### **Land South of Leeds Road**

The whole of this site was under cereals, approximately half of which were already harvested.

#### **Land between Baffham Lane and Selby Canal**

Approximately three quarters of this site had been under cereals, which had been recently harvested. The south eastern corner of the site was in sugar beet.

#### **Land West of Brackenhill Avenue**

The whole of the site had been under cereals, which had recently been harvested.

### SUMMARY

5. Fieldwork was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare and one soil pit was dug at each site.
6. The findings of the survey are shown on the attached ALC maps which are drawn at a scale of 1:5,000. These are accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.
7. The areas 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)	
	Grade 2	Subgrade 3a
Between Baffham Lane and Selby Canal	5.0	11.0
West of Brackenhill Avenue	-	25.9
South of Leeds Road	-	12.7

## BETWEEN BAFFHAM LANE AND SELBY CANAL

### Climate

8. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.
9. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using the standard interpolation procedures (Met. Office, 1989). Climatic details for the other two sites are given in Tables 3 and 4 respectively.

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SE 609 306
Altitude	m, AOD	6
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1406
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	596
Field Capacity Days	days	125
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	108
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	100
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

10. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.
11. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.
12. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no climatic limitation.

### Site

13. The site is level and therefore gradient does not restrict ALC grade at any point. Equally, neither flood risk nor microrelief are of significance on this site.

### Geology and soils

14. The area is underlain by Bunter Sandstone, with a covering layer of blown sand in the south and silt and clay in the north (BGS Sheet 79, Goole; Solid and Drift). The soils have been mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as Everingham series, with small areas of Portington series in the south east and north west and a small area of Kexby series in the north east of the site (Soils in North Yorkshire IV, Sheet 63/73, Selby).

### AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

15. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 2.

#### *Grade 2*

16. An area of 5 ha covering the north west corner of the site is classified as Grade 2, very good quality agricultural land. The soils are well drained (Wetness Class I), consisting of fine and medium sandy loams, overlying loamy medium sand or medium sandy loam over medium sand. ALC grade is limited by soil droughtiness.

#### *Subgrade 3a*

17. The largest part of this site (11ha) is classified as Subgrade 3a, good quality agricultural land. Soils in the the southern part of the site are loamy fine sands overlying fine sand, with clay appearing at 60 to 110cm depth in several borings. The grade limitation in this part of the site is erosion risk. In the north eastern area of the site soils are more variable, being made up of medium loamy sands and medium sandy loam, over medium sand or sandy clay. Profiles are well-drained, falling into Wetness Class I. Grade in this area is limited by soil droughtiness.

(RPT File No.: 20,355)

## SOUTH OF LEEDS ROAD, SELBY

### Climate

Table 4: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SE 590 316
Altitude	m, AOD	5
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1407
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	598
Field Capacity Days	days	127
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	108
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	100
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

23. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no climatic limitation.

### Site

24. A large proportion of the land on the site is level, with the southern and western edges shallowly undulating. Slopes are within the range 2° to 3° and vary in orientation, mainly facing south or north.

### Geology and soils

25. The site is underlain by Bunter sandstone, over which is deposited a covering of wind-blown sand, although the sandstone may outcrop in the extreme south. (BGS Sheet 79, Solid and Drift).

26. The soils on the site have been mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as Everingham association in the east of the site, and Newport 1 association in the west (Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 1).

### AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

27. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 2.

#### *Subgrade 3a*

28. All of the land on the site falls in Subgrade 3a, good quality agricultural land. The soils are well drained (Wetness Classes I or II) and consist of stoneless to very slightly stony loamy fine sands. These largely overlay clay (below 60 cm) in the northern part of the site, and fine sand in the south. The main limitation across the whole site is that of erosion risk.

**SOURCES OF REFERENCE**

British Geological Survey (1971) *Sheet No. 79, Goole (Drift)*. BGS: London.

British Geological Survey (1972) *Sheet No. 79, Goole (Solid)*. 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 (1978) *Soil Survey Record No. 56. Soils in North Yorkshire IV: Sheet SE 63/73 (Selby)*. SSEW Harpenden

Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) *Sheet 1 Northern England*.  
SSEW: Harpenden

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

## 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.

## WEST OF BRACKENHILL AVENUE

### Climate

Table 3: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SE 599 313
Altitude	m, AOD	6
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1406
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	599
Field Capacity Days	days	126
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	108
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	100
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

18. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no climatic limitation.

### Site

19. The site is level and therefore gradient does not restrict ALC grade at any point. Equally, neither flood risk nor microrelief are of significance on this site.

### Geology and soils

20. The site is underlain by Bunter sandstone with a covering of blown sand (BGS Sheet 79; Solid and Drift). The soils have been mapped as Everingham association by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (Soils of England and Wales, Sheet 1).

### AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

21. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 2.

#### *Subgrade 3a*

22. All the land on this site falls into Subgrade 3a, good quality agricultural land. The soils are well drained, falling into Wetness Class 1, and consist of loamy fine sand overlying fine sand or loamy fine sand, with a lower subsoil of clay occurring within 120cm of the surface at some points. The main grade limitation on this site is erosion risk.

(RPT File No.: 20,356 and 2FCS 11,225)