AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

A67 Teeside Airport Link and Access Road

MAFF

Leeds Regional Office

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1. Agricultural Land Classification

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Agricultural Land Classification report on the proposed A67 Teeside Airport Access Road

Introduction and Site Characteristics

The route of the proposed access road starts about 4 km east of Darlington west of Middleton St George (NGR N2 345135), where it leaves the A67 to form an arc about 4 km in length to the north of the village rejoining the A67 to the east at Teeside Airport. Soils were examined in February 1991 at approximately 100 m intervals in a corridor along the route of the proposed link road to a depth of 1 metre by hand auger borings. Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters were as follows:-

Annual Average Rainfall (mm)	593
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C	1336
Field Capacity Days	139
Moisture Deficit (mm) wheat	101
potatoes	90

The above rainfall and temperature values indicate that there is no climatic limitation on ALC grades.

Slopes across the site are mostly gentle and the average altitude is about 40 m aod.

Geology and Soils

Soils are all formed on glacial and post glacial drift deposits, principally a reddish boulder clay. Topsoils are usually either of medium or heavy clay loam over a reddish, clayey, slowly permeable subsoil. Most profiles fall within soil Wetness Class IV. Topsoils

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are lighter in a few localised areas, consisting typically of medium sandy loam. These soils are often better drained and usually fall within Wetness Class III.

2. Agricultural Land Classification

The ALC grades occurring along the survey corridor are as follows:-

Grade/Subgrade	Area	Percentage of total
	(ha)	survey area
3a	1.64	2.7%
3b	45.97	74.6%
Non Agricultural	7.12	11.5
Agricultural Buildings	0.75	1.2%
Urban	6.18	10.0%
	61.66	100%

NB These figures are grades within the 75 m-100 m survey corridor within which the road will be built. Although the final landtake for this road will be considerably less than the above figures, the percentage will be very similar.

Subgrade 3a

Subgrade 3a land consists mainly of sandy loam topsoils over similar textured upper subsoils. Clayey upper subsoils occur only occasionally. Lower subsoils are formed usually of reddish slowly permeable clay. Those soils fall within Wetness Classes III or IV and wetness and workability problems are the main limitations on grade.

Subgrade 3b

This grade is widespread along the route. Soils consist typically of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over clayey slowly permeable subsoils (Soil Wetness Class IV). Soil wetness and workability problems are more limiting than on the subgrade 3a land.

Non Agricultural

This includes derelict railway sidings where there are some soil forming materials available, allotments and areas of woodland.

Urban

Urban land consists mainly of roads crossing the survey corridor along with developed land on the edge of the airport.

Farm Buildings

Buildings at Goosepool Farm are included in this category.

Resource Planning Group Leeds Regional Office .

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