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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
LAND ADJACENT TO PRUDHOE BYPASS
NORTHUMBERLAND
ED 1.13, 1.12, 1.11
DECEMBER 1994

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group
2FCS 10337

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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 13.2 ha of land adjacent to the new Prudhoe bypass to the north of Prudhoe, Northumberland was carried out in December 1994. At the time of survey 94% of the site was in agricultural use as grassland.

All of the agricultural land (12.4 ha) was restored, and was Subgrade 3b. Topsoils were very shallow over much of the site, and varied from light to heavy textured. Topsoils overlay compacted shaley material at 25-60 cm depth. Soils were well to imperfectly drained, falling into Wetness Class I and II.

Two areas of unfinished road adjacent to the roundabout occupied 0.4 ha and were classed as Urban.

One area of Woodland occupied 0.2 ha and Non-Agricultural land occupied 0.2 ha.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND ADJACENT TO PRUDHOE BYPASS (ED 1.13, 1.12, 1.11), TYNEDALE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site is located 1km north-east of Prudhoe, adjacent to the new Prudhoe bypass at 'Low Prudhoe'. It covers 13.2 ha and has a centroid grid reference of NZ 106 639. Survey work was carried out in early December 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. A soil profile pit was dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. Land quality was assessed using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales, Revised guidelines and criteria from grading the quality of Agricultural Land (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of survey 94% of the site was in agricultural use under permanent pasture. Altitude ranges from 20m AOD in the south to 10m AOD in the north. Slopes were gentle with a northerly aspect.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 106 639
Altitude (m)	: 15
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1348 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 670
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 171
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 97
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 85

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

All land on the site has been restored.

Profiles generally consist of shallow topsoils overlying compacted shaley material at around 30cm depth in the south, and at around 60 cm depth in the north of the site. Topsoils vary from heavy to light textured and are well to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class I-II).

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	Percentage of Total Area
1		
2		
3		
3b	12.4	94.0
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(12.4)	(94.0)
Urban	0.4	3.0
Non Agricultural	0.2	1.5
Woodland - Farm	0.2	1.5
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(0.8)	(6.0)
TOTAL	13.2	100

2.1 Subgrade 3b

All of the agricultural land on the site falls into Subgrade 3b. Topsoils vary in texture from fine sand to heavy clay loam, but are often medium sandy loam. Topsoils are occasionally gleyed, and all fall into Wetness Classes I or II.

All the land has been restored. Topsoils overlie compacted shaley material at around 30cm depth in the south, and at around 60cm depth in the north of the site. The land is limited to Subgrade 3b by a combination of soil depth and droughtiness restrictions.

2.2 Urban

This comprises two areas of unfinished metalled road to the north and south of the new roundabout in the west of the site.

2.3 Non Agricultural

Two areas of rough grass at the edges of the site in the west and south fall into this category.

2.4 Woodland

One area of woodland in the south of the site falls into this category.

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MAP