

**HARROGATE DISTRICT
LOCAL PLAN**

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

JANUARY 1998

Resource Planning Team

**Northern Region
FRCA Leeds**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

HARROGATE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys of twelve sites within Harrogate District, which form alternative sites for the relocation of Harrogate Rugby Club. 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 Harrogate District Local Plan. The south-west of Site 15 and the centre and east of Site 1 had been subject to ALC reports in 1993 (References 14/93 and 26/93), also in relation to Harrogate District Local Plan. This report and the accompanying maps supersede any previous ALC information for this land.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 At the time of survey the land use on the sites was as follows:-
- Site 1 - Agricultural land was under permanent grass. Other land included a playing field, a horticultural nursery, and a small machinery depot.
- Site 2 - All the agricultural land was under grass, mostly used for keeping horses. A small part of the site was being used for an equine schooling arena.
- Site 3 - The agricultural land on this site was in permanent grass. Non-agricultural land occurs in the south and centre and consists of footpaths and playing fields.
- Site 4 - All of this site was in ley grass.
- Site 5 - Access to carry out ALC survey was refused at this site.
- Site 9 - Grass and fodder crops were grown on this site. A playing field occupied a small area in the south west.
- Site 10b - Ley and permanent grass were found at Site 10b.
- Site 13 - The west of the site consists of the existing Harrogate Rugby Football Club ground, the centre is in permanent grass and the east is set-aside.

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- Site 4 - All of this site was in ley grass.
- Site 5 - Access to carry out ALC survey was refused at this site.
- Site 9 - Grass and fodder crops were grown on this site. A playing field occupied a small area in the south west.
- Site 10b - Ley and permanent grass were found at Site 10b.
- Site 13 - The west of the site consists of the existing Harrogate Rugby Football Club ground, the centre is in permanent grass and the east is in set-aside.

Site 15 -Most of this site was in winter barley but a strip around the edge of the site and the south-western corner were in set-aside.

Site 16 -All of this site comprised ley and permanent grass.

Site 17- Most of this site was under permanent grass although raspberries were growing in a small area in the north-western corner.

Site 21 -Winter cereals were being grown at Site 21.

SUMMARY

- 1.4 Field work was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare. Additional borings were made where necessary to refine grade boundaries and at least one soil profile pit was dug on each site.
- 1.5 The survey findings are shown on the attached ALC maps which are drawn at a scale of 1:5,000. They are accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.

The areas of ALC grades and subgrades are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Area (ha)

Site No.	Grade 2	Subgrade 3a	Subgrade 3b	Grade 4	Other land	TOTAL
1	-	2.2	8.1	-	3.6	13.9
2	-	-	16.7	-	0.2	16.9
3	-	2.3	13.4	-	4.9	20.6
4	-	-	4.1	14.0	-	18.1
5	Access refused					
9	-	-	8.1	-	0.9	9.0
10b	-	-	8.0	-	0.4	8.4
13	-	-	5.0	-	4.4	9.4
15	4.0	8.1	11.6	-	-	23.7
16	-	-	16.1	-	-	16.1
17	-	-	6.4	7.1	-	13.5
21	-	-	6.4	5.7	-	12.1

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.