AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Proposed Trunk Road Service Station on the Western Side of the A1/A168 Interchange, Dishforth, North Yorkshire

MAFF Leeds Regional Office

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## 1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE A1/A168 INTERSECTION, DISHFORTH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## 1.1 Introduction

11.9 hectares of land to be taken by the proposed service station on the western side of the A1/A168 intersection at Dishforth (grid reference SE 368726) were surveyed in November 1989. Soils were examined by hand auger borings at eighteen points predetermined by the National Grid. In addition, a soil profile pit was dug to provide more detailed information on soil structure. Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 Climate and Relief

Salient climatic parameters at Dishforth (altitude 45 m) are as follows:-

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	653
Accumulated Temperature Above 0°C (Jan-June)	1348
Field Capacity Days	152
Moisture Deposit (mm) wheat	103
potatoes	93

These factors indicate there is no overall limitation on ALC grade although stony and light textured soils will be droughty.

The land is gently undulating and slopes do not exceed 7°. Average altitude is 45 m a.o.d.

1.3 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Soils are all formed on light textured glacial and post glacial drift. Top and subsoils are usually formed of unmottled slightly stony, medium sandy loam (Wetness Class I), except for several hollocks which contain soils with

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moderately or very stony horizons. Droughtiness assessments indicate that soils of this type will be slightly droughty, especially for potatoes.

1.4 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 (6.9 hectares/56% of area)

Land in this grade consists of freely drained unmottled, slightly stony, medium or fine sandy loam topsoils over similar subsoils. There is no wetness or workability limitation (Wetness Class I) but slight droughtiness restricts this land to no better than grade 2.

Subgrade 3a (1.5 hectares/13% of area)

Soils in this subgrade are similar to those within Grade 2. Subsoils, however, are slightly lighter, usually of loamy medium or fine sand and stone content is higher throughout the profile. Consequently the available water capacity is reduced making this land more droughty and limiting it to subgrade 3a.

Subgrade 3b (1.0 hectare/9% of area)

All the 3b land contains topsoils with many or abundant stones. These will impede cultivation, harvesting and crop growth sufficiently to limit the land to subgrade 3b.

Non Agricultural (1.6 hectares/14% of area)

This category contains a variety of land uses associates with construction of the recently completed Dishforth flyover. These include soil dumps, temporary office accommodation and vehicle storage compounds.

Urban (0.9 hectares/8% of area)

The newly constructed Dishforth-Ripon C road falls within the survey area and is placed within the urban category.

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