



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL PLAN  
STANTON VALE FARM, STANTON,  
CLEVELAND  
MAY 1994

ADAS  
Leeds Statutory Group

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2 FCS 10129

## SUMMARY

An Agricultural Land Classification Survey was carried out on 74.3 ha of land at Stainton Vale Farm, Stainton, Cleveland in May 1994. The majority of this land was in agricultural use, the remainder being Non-Agricultural, Urban and Farm Buildings.

Subgrade 3a land covers 3.7 ha. Soils within this subgrade consist of heavy clay loam topsoils over permeable gleyed heavy clay loam and medium clay loam subsoils. They are moderately well drained and limited to Subgrade 3a by workability and slight wetness problems.

Subgrade 3b land covers 65.1 ha. Soils consist of heavy clay loam, with occasional medium clay loam, topsoils, overlying gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. They are imperfectly and poorly drained and limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

The remainder of the site consists of Non-Agricultural 3.7 ha, Urban 1.1 ha and Farm Buildings 0.7ha.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT STANTON VALE FARM, STANTON, CLEVELAND

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

The site lies approximately 6km south east of Middlesbrough town centre directly east of the A19 (T), around National Grid Reference NZ 472146. Survey work was carried out in May 1994 when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a semi-detailed level of one boring per 2ha at points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality was assessed using methods outlined in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales" Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land (MAFF 1988).

1.2 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey most of the area was either ploughed, in cereals or permanent grass. The remainder consisted of farm buildings with permanent track access and non-agricultural shrub and trees around Stainton Beck.

The site lies between 29m and 35m AOD. It is mainly level to gently sloping (0-3°) with a small area of strongly sloping (8°) land south of Stainton Beck.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ 472146
Altitude (m)	: 34
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January-June)	: 1340
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 630
Climatic Grade	: 1
Field Capacity Days	: 154
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 102
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 91

#### 1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The area is underlain with Sherwood (Bunter) sandstone over which there is a covering of boulder clay and undifferentiated drift. Soils are medium to heavy textured and correspond to the Crewe and Dunkeswick Associations as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre. Soils consist mainly of medium or heavy clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Slowly permeable layers occur between 30cm and 60cm depth and drainage is imperfect to poor (Wetness Classes III and IV).

A small area of gleyed moderately well drained land (Wetness Class II) occurs to the west of the site.

## 2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The ALC grades occurring on this site are as follows:

<u>Grade/Subgrade</u>	<u>Hectares</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Area</u>
1		
2		
3a	3.7	5.0
3b	65.1	87.6
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(68.8)	(92.6)
Urban	1.1	1.5
Non Agricultural	3.7	5.0
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings	0.7	0.9
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(5.5)	(7.4)
 TOTAL	 <u>74.3</u>	 <u>100</u>

## 2.1 Subgrade 3a

Land in this subgrade occurs over a small area in the west of the site. Profiles consist of moderately well drained (Wetness Class II) stoneless heavy clay loam topsoils over slightly gleyed permeable heavy clay loam and medium clay loam subsoils. These soils are limited to Subgrade 3a by workability and wetness restrictions.

## 2.2 Subgrade 3b

Land in this subgrade occurs over the remaining agricultural land. Soils consist of imperfectly and poorly drained, (Wetness Class III and IV), stoneless to very slightly stony heavy clay loam, with occasional medium clay loam, topsoils. These overlie gleyed slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Profiles are slowly permeable between 30cm and 60cm and are limited to Subgrade 3b by wetness and workability problems.

A small area of land to the south of Stainton Beck is limited to Subgrade 3b by a gradient of (8°).

## 2.3 Non Agricultural

Non-agricultural land consists of a strip of woodland to the north of the site and a wooded area along the length of Stainton Beck.

## 2.4 Urban

Urban land consists of two tracks leading to Stainton Vale Farm and Plum Tree Farm.

## 2.5 Farm Buildings

These consist of Stainton Vale Farm and Plum Tree Farm with associated buildings.

Resource Planning Team  
Leeds Statutory Centre  
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MAP