



**SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
Agricultural Land Classification  
of Objectors' Sites  
Summary Report  
November 1996**

**Resource Planning Team  
Leeds Statutory Group  
ADAS Leeds**

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SUMMARY REPORT

## SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN OBJECTORS' SITES

### Introduction

This report presents the findings of six detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys covering 158.5 ha of land within Scarborough District. The surveys were carried out in October and November 1996 at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) Land Use Planning Unit in Northallerton in connection with the Scarborough District Wide Local Plan. These surveys supersede any previous ALC surveys on this land.

The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Leeds Statutory Group in ADAS. 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.

At the time of the surveys the land use on the sites was as follows:

#### Site 56/105, Broad Ings Farm, Whitby

All of the agricultural land was recently ploughed-up grass, which had presumably been reseeded. A small area of other land consisting of agricultural buildings was mapped in the north-west of the site.

#### Site 311/719, East Ayton

The west and centre of this site was under permanent grass while the east had recently been sown to winter cereals.

#### Land at Amtree Park, Filey

All of the agricultural land was under permanent pasture. Other land consists of concrete foundations and footings in the north east of the site, an area of trees in the north west of the site and farm buildings and dwellings to the west of the site.

#### Site 41/386, Starr Carr, Seamer

Most of the agricultural land on the site was either sown to winter cereals or had been recently ploughed in preparation for sowing. One field in the north-west was still in cereal stubble and one in the north-east appeared to be in long-term set-aside. Other, non-agricultural, land on this site occurs in the west at Starr Carr Farm and in the north-east (Ling Lane).

#### Site 346/797, Land East of Scalby Road

All the land was in arable use at the time of survey.

### Site 370/870 and 370/871, Land at High Mill Farm, Scalby

All agricultural land on the site was in arable use at the time of survey. Non-agricultural land comprised recently planted woodland, a caravan park, farm buildings and scrub land adjacent to Scalby Beck.

#### **Summary**

The field work was conducted at an average density of one boring per hectare, and at least one soil pit was dug on each site to allow a full profile description to be made.

The findings of the surveys are shown on the enclosed ALC maps. The maps have been drawn at 1:5,000 scale with the exception of Site 41/386 (Starr Carr) which has been drawn at 1:7,500 scale. They are accurate at the scale at which they have been drawn but any enlargement would be misleading.

The areas of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land  
Area (ha)

Site	Grade 2	Subgrade 3a	Subgrade 3b	Other land	Land not surveyed
56/105, Broad Ings Farm	-	-	2.6	0.3	-
311/719, East Ayton	5.7	-	2.1	-	-
Land at Amtree Park	-	-	12.3	2.2	-
41/386, Starr Carr	56.0	13.4	25.3	1.9	-
346/797, East of Scalby Road	-	2.8	11.6	-	2.4
370/870 and 370/871, High Mill Farm	-	3.1	13.8	3.0	-

### Site 56/105, Broad Ings Farm, Whitby

All of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land. The soils are poorly drained with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam subsoils. Soil wetness is the factor restricting this land to Subgrade 3b. Other land, consisting of agricultural buildings, occurs in the north-west of the site.

### Site 311/719, East Ayton

The north of this site is Grade 2, very good quality agricultural land. The soils are well drained and consist of slightly stony medium sandy loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying slightly to moderately stony medium sandy loam or medium clay loam subsoils. Very slight soil droughtiness limits this land to Grade 2. The south of the site falls in Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land. The soils here are poorly drained and consist of medium silty clay loam or medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable clay at around 30 cm depth. In this case soil wetness is the grade limiting factor.

#### Land at Amtree Park, Filey

All of the agricultural land on this site falls in Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land. The soils are poorly drained with medium clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam and clay subsoils. Moderate soil wetness restrictions limit this land to Subgrade 3b. Other land consists of concrete foundations to the north-east, a strip of woodland to the north-west and farm buildings and dwellings to the west.

#### Site 41/386, Starr Carr, Seamer

Grade 2 land, very good quality agricultural land, occurs in the east and south. In the east and south-west the soils are generally peaty and the ALC grade is limited by soil wetness and, due to the acidity of some subsoils, soil droughtiness. In the centre of the site peaty topsoils and upper subsoils overlie mineral soils of variable texture. However, these soils are generally imperfectly drained and soil wetness is the grade-limiting factor. Subgrade 3a land, good quality agricultural land, occurs in the south, north-east and north-west. In the north-east many profiles are poorly drained and the ALC grade of the land is restricted by soil wetness and by a pattern restriction. In the south the soils are either slightly to very stony and light-textured (in which case soil droughtiness limits the land to Subgrade 3a) or consist of organic medium-textured topsoils overlying gleyed and slowly permeable medium-textured subsoils (in which case soil wetness is the grade limiting factor). In the north-west light to medium-textured topsoils overlie light to heavy-textured subsoils. The profiles vary between well and poorly drained and the land is limited to Subgrade 3a by soil wetness and pattern restrictions. Subgrade 3b, moderate quality agricultural land, occurs in the north-west. Most of the profiles are poorly drained but the textures of both topsoils and subsoils are very variable. Soil wetness and a pattern limitation restrict these areas to Subgrade 3b. Other, non-agricultural, land on this site occurs at Starr Carr Farm in the west and at Ling Lane in the north-east.

#### Site 346/797, Land East of Scalby Road

Most of the site is Subgrade 3b and subject to a significant soil wetness and workability limitation. Two small areas of Subgrade 3a land were identified where soil wetness and workability were less of a limitation.

#### Site 370/870 and 370/871, Land at High Mill Farm, Scalby

Most of the site is Subgrade 3b. Soils are poorly drained and in the west some land contains slopes of over 7°. Soil wetness and workability limit the ALC grade of this land. Remaining agricultural land is Subgrade 3a. Soil wetness and workability problems are less severe on this land. Other land comprises recently planted trees, a caravan park, farm buildings and scrub land.

## 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.