AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ALLERDALE DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN
SITE 11

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR ALLERDALE DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN, SITE 11

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	ha	% of site
3b	2.6	79
Other land	0.7	21

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1996. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).

2.2 The 3.3 ha site is situated to the west of Seaton. The land immediately to the south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Allerdale District Wide Local Plan.

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:100000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.

2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (NY012309) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	963
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1366

3.2 The combination of average annual rainfall and accumulated temperature limit the site to Climatic Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	230
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	74
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	58

4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 Gradients of over 11° limit an area in the south of the site to Subgrade 3b.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Millstone Grit - British Geological Survey Sheet 22 Maryport 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder Clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.6 ha (79%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam or clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.2 Other land occupies 0.7 ha (21%) of the survey area and includes woodland, scrub and stream banks.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	2.6	100	100
Other	0.7	21	
Totals	**3.3**	**100**	**100**