

**AGRICUL~~A~~TURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN -  
SOUTH WEST**

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SOUTH WEST

### 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
3a	50.0	37
3b	76.6	57
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	1.0	<1
Woodland	0.4	<1
Urban	5.1	4
Non Agricultural	0.8	<1

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

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 1995. 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 133.9 ha site is situated to the south west of Carlisle and is bisected by the A595. The land immediately to the south, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Carlisle District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 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 majority of the site was under permanent grass, or ley grass, with a small areas of arable in the North West.

### 3 CLIMATE

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

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	844
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1341

3.2 There is an overall climatic limitation of Grade 2 on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	213
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	76
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	59

### 4 SITE

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

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

### 5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of the Stanwix series - British Geological Survey Sheet 17 Carlisle 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary Glacial boulder clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a sandy loam or clay loam texture topsoils over clay loam or clay.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 50.0 ha (37%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north west of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has either a sandy loam or clay loam texture over clay loam to depth, with few or moderate stones within the profile. 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 Subgrade 3b - occupies 76.6 ha (57%) of the survey area and is found to the north and south east of the site.

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

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

6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 1.0 ha (<1%) of the survey area and are found to the south east of the site; woodland - occupying 0.4 ha (<1%) of the survey in the middle of the site, urban - covering 5.1 ha (4%) of the survey area as roads trackways and residential housing scattered throughout the site and a water sub station occupying 0.8 ha (<1%) to the east of the A595.

## 6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	50.0	37	40
3b	76.6	57	60
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	1.0	<1	
Woodland	0.4	<1	
Urban	5.1	4	
Non Agricultural	0.8	<1	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>