



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BERWICK DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL PLAN
ALC SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENT SITES
SITE 7 (POLICY W23) & SITE 8 (POLICY S29)
BELFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND
FEBRUARY 1995

ADAS
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SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 2 sites to the south of Belford was carried out in February 1995.

Soils on both sites are developed from boulder clay drift. Topsoils consist of medium clay loam and sandy clay loam over heavier slowly permeable sandy clay loam and heavy clay loam subsoils. Soils are moderately well to poorly drained (Wetness Classes II, III and IV).

Site 7 was wholly Subgrade 3a, consisting of 2.8 ha. Soil wetness and soil variability were the limiting factors on this site.

Site 8 was wholly Subgrade 3a, consisting of 1.7 ha. Soil wetness was the limiting factor on this site.

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT BERWICK DISTRICT WIDE LOCAL
PLAN, SITE 7 (POLICY W23) AND SITE 8 (POLICY S29), BELFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

Land at two sites to the south and south east of Belford was surveyed in February 1995. The agricultural land quality of each of these sites is described in detail in the following sections of this report. Both sites were examined in detail when soils were examined by hand auger borings at a density of one boring per hectare at locations predetermined by the National Grid. Soil profile pits were dug to examine representative soil types in greater detail.

All assessments were made using the methods described in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF, 1988).

1.2 Geology, Soils and Drainage

Both sites are underlain by Lower Carboniferous Limestone over which there is a drift cover of boulder clay. Topsoils consist of medium and sandy clay loam, over moderately to imperfectly drained (Wetness Class II & III) medium and sandy clay loam upper subsoils, in turn over slowly permeable sandy and heavy clay loam lower subsoils. Occasional heavier poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) profiles also occur over the sites.

2.1 SITE 7 (POLICY W23) BELFORD

2.1.1 Location

The land at Site 1 has a centroid grid reference of NU 109 335 and is located about ¼ km south of Belford town centre.

2.1.2 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 109 335
Altitude (m)	: 55
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1272 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 634
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 160
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 28

2.1.3 Land Use and Relief

The whole site is under cereals. The site is gently sloping (2°) and lies at an altitude of 55m AOD.

2.1.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - SITE 7 (POLICY W23) BELFORD

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	2.8	100.0
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(2.8)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
 TOTAL	 <u>2.8</u>	 <u>100</u>

2.1.5 Subgrade 3a

This land contains moderately drained (Wetness Class II) and occasional poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) soils. Profiles consist of very slightly stony medium clay loam and sandy clay loam topsoils, over similar permeable upper subsoils in turn over slowly permeable lower subsoils. Occasional poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) soils also occur on the site. Although some profiles fit the physical characteristics of Grade 2 land, variability and soil wetness limitations over the site results in an overall grading of Subgrade 3a.

2.2 SITE 8 (POLICY S29) BELFORD

2.2.1 Location

The land at Site 8 has a centroid grid reference of NU 113 333 and is located about ½ km south east of Belford town centre.

2.2.2 Climate

Grid Reference	: NU 113 333
Altitude (m)	: 50
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1278 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 634
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 161
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 79

2.2.3 Land Use and Relief

The land is gently sloping (2°) and lies at an altitude of 50m AOD. At the time of the survey the site was in cereals.

2.2.4 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION - SITE 8 (POLICY S29) BELFORD

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	1.7	100.0
3b		
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(1.7)	(100.0)
Urban		
Non Agricultural		
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water		
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)		
 TOTAL	 <u>1.7</u>	 <u>100</u>

2.2.5 Subgrade 3a

The whole of the site is Subgrade 3a. Soils consist of stoneless medium clay loam topsoils over similar permeable upper subsoils, in turn over gleyed slowly permeable lower subsoils. Soils are slowly permeable between 45cm and 55cm depth and are limited to Subgrade 3a by moderate soil wetness restrictions.

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