

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN
NETHERBY PARK**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
CUMBRIA MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN
NETHERBY PARK**

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 |
|----------------|------|-----------|
| 2 | 30.2 | 64.4 |
| 3a | 8.2 | 17.5 |
| 3b | 7.4 | 15.8 |
| 4 | 0.7 | 1.5 |
| Other land | 0.4 | 0.8 |

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is climate.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrades 3a, 3b and Grade 4 is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 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 46.9 ha site is situated to the north of Longtown. The land surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Cumbria Minerals and Waste 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 site was under permanent grass.
- 2.6 An unrestored sand and gravel pit lies to the south west of the site. There has been no restoration of this site and the presence of large ponds indicates that this was a wet working.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (NY 380 705) :

| | |
|--|------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | 925 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C) | 1356 |

3.2 The combination of average annual rainfall and accumulated temperature provide a climatic limitation of Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Field Capacity Days (days) | 224 |
| Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm) | 74 |
| Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm) | 57 |

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 geology of the area is comprised of First Terrace Loamy Glacio fluvial Deposits and alluvium - British Geological Survey Sheet 11 Longtown 1 Inch.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 30.2 ha (64.4%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy silt loam texture overlying silty clay loam or sandy silt loam to depth. The soils are not gleyed and do not have a slowly permeable layer and are placed in Wetness Class I. However climate limits these soils to Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 8.1 ha (17.5%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy silt loam or silty clay loam texture over silty clay loam. The soils are gleyed but have no slowly permeable layer and are placed in Subgrade 3a.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7.4 ha (15.8%) of the survey area

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

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

6.4 Grade 4 - occupies 0.7 ha (1.5%) of the survey area.

6.4.1 The soil typically has a peaty loam texture to depth. The soil is not gleyed, however the profile is saturated and there is standing water on the surface. The appearance of the vegetation indicates that this is not a temporary or short term situation and thus the soils have been placed in Wetness Class V and Grade 4.

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

6.5 Other land comprises a farm track which occupies 0.4 ha (0.8%) of the site.

6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

| Grade/Sub-grade | Area in Hectares | % of Survey Area | % of Agricultural Land |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 | 30.2 | 64.4 | 64.9 |
| 3a | 8.2 | 17.5 | 17.6 |
| 3b | 7.4 | 15.8 | 16.0 |
| 4 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Other | 0.4 | 0.8 | |
| Totals | 46.9 | 100.0 | 100.0 |