FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW
LAND WEST OF HARBOUR LANE, WARTON
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
August 1997

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RPT Reference: 41/97 & 25/RPT/0797
FRCA Reference: EL 21/11137
LURET Job Number: ME1AQK

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 5.1 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the north of Warton, west of Harbour Lane. The survey was in connection with the Fylde Borough Local Plan Review.

2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in August 1997 by the Resource Planning Team of the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)- Northern region of FRCA.

3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988) .

4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under pasture for grazing of cattle.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10000 with an average auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at this base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.

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

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% surveyed area	% site area
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3a	-	-	-
3b	4.0	100	78
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	-	N/A	-
Other land	1.1	N/A	22
Total surveyed area	4.0	100	-
Total site area	5.1	-	100

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3b (moderate quality). The key limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

8. The area of moderate quality land is mapped across all of the site. The soils in this area comprise a medium clay loam topsoil overlying a gleyed medium clay loam upper subsoil, passing to a gleyed and slowly permeable heavy clay loam lower subsoil, with clay at depth.

FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

Climate

9. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

10. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Meteorological Office, 1989).

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SD 410 292
Altitude	m, AOD	15
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1423
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	911
Field Capacity Days	days	204
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	81
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	67
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

11. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

12. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (ATO, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

13. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1.

Site

14. The site lies at an altitude of about 15 metres AOD and is generally level.

15. The three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.

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

Geology and Soils

17. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Sherwood Sandstone. This is overlain with deposits of boulder clay - British Geological Survey (1950 and 1982).

18. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a medium clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and clay.

Agricultural Land Classification

19. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the enclosed ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 1.

Subgrade 3b

20. Land of moderate quality occupies 4.0 hectares (78 %) of the site area and extends across the whole of the site in a single unit.

21. The soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying a gleyed heavy clay loam and clay. The depths to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

Other Land

23. Other land occupies 1.1 hectares (22 %) of the site area and is found as greenhouses in the north east of the site and a pond.

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SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1950) Sheet 75, Preston Drift Edition
1:63 360 Scale.
BGS: London.

British Geological Survey (1982) Sheet 75, Preston Solid Edition.
1:50 000 Scale.
BGS: London.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.
MAFF: London.

Meteorological Office (1989) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.
Meteorological Office: Bracknell.