



AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BLYTH VALLEY BWLP
POSSIBLE 'WHITE LAND'
WEST HARTFORD
NORTHUMBERLAND

SEPTEMBER 1995

ADAS
Leeds Statutory Group

Job No:- 190/95
MAFF Ref:- EL10624
Commission No:- 2032

2 FCS 111 2A

SUMMARY

A detailed Agricultural Land Classification survey of 53.5 ha of land at West Hartford, 2 km north-west of Cramlington, was carried out in September 1995.

51.0 ha of this was in agricultural use, all of which falls in Subgrade 3b. The soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam or occasional sandy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability restrictions.

The remaining land consists of non-agricultural areas (1.4 ha) and open water (1.1 ha).

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS
2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

MAP

1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT WEST HARTFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND. ("BLYTH VALLEY BWLP - POSSIBLE WHITE LAND")

1. INTRODUCTION AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

1.1 Location and Survey Methods

This site lies 2km north-west of Cramlington town centre, directly north of the A192, and around National Grid Reference NZ255790. The site covers 53.5 ha and was surveyed in September 1995, when the soils were examined by hand auger borings at 100m intervals predetermined by the National Grid. A soil profile pit was dug to allow the soils to be described in greater detail. Land quality was assessed 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 Land Use and Relief

At the time of the survey the majority of the agricultural land was in permanent grass, with the remainder in oilseed rape. The remaining land consists of four areas of non-agricultural land to the east and an area of flooded land located centrally. The land is level (0-1°) and average altitude is 51m AOD.

1.3 Climate

Grid Reference	: NZ255790
Altitude (m)	: 51
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C (January - June)	: 1297 day °C
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 682
Climatic Grade	: 2
Field Capacity Days	: 172
Moisture Deficit (mm) Wheat	: 92
Moisture Deficit (mm) Potatoes	: 78

1.4 Geology, Soils and Drainage

The site is underlain by Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures with a drift cover of till over the whole site. The soils are poorly drained (Wetness Class IV) with medium clay loam and occasional sandy clay loam topsoils overlying gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils.

The soils on the site correspond to the Foggathorpe 1 Association as mapped by the Soil Survey and Land Research Centre.

2. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

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		
3b	51.0	95.3
4		
5		
(Sub total)	(51.0)	(95.3)
Urban		
Non Agricultural	1.4	2.6
Woodland - Farm		
- Commercial		
Agricultural Buildings		
Open Water	1.1	2.1
Land not surveyed		
(Sub total)	(2.5)	(4.7)
TOTAL	<u>53.5</u>	<u>100</u>

2.1 Subgrade 3b

The whole of the agricultural land on the site falls into Subgrade 3b. Soils consist of very slightly stony (1-2% small and medium subrounded hard stones) medium clay loam, or occasional sandy clay loam topsoils over gleyed slowly permeable clay subsoils. The slowly permeable layer begins at between 25-35cm depth. This land is limited to Subgrade 3b by severe soil wetness and workability restrictions.

2.2 Non-Agricultural

There are four areas of non-agricultural land on the site. These are found to the east of the site and consist of scrub to the north and centre, with a larger boggy area to the south.

2.3 Open Water

An area of open water occurs centrally on the site, probably due to subsidence locally.

RPT File: 2 FCS 11127
Leeds Statutory Group

MAP