FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
Warton

Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
May 1998

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
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INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 27.1 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the west of Warton. The survey was in connection with the Fylde Borough Local Plan (First Review).

2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in May 1998 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 grass.

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	20.8	100	77
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	-	N/A	-
Other land	6.3	N/A	23
Total surveyed area	20.8	100	-
Total site area	27.1	-	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 over the majority of the site. The soils have a clay loam topsoil overlying a gleyed and slowly permeable clay subsoil.

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 405 287
Altitude	m, AOD	10
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1429
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	898
Field Capacity Days	days	202
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	82
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	69
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 7 to 14 metres AOD. The land falls away in all directions from a dome in the centre of the site.

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, Hambleton Mudstone and Singleton Mudstone. 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 clay loam texture over 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 20.8 hectares (77%) of the site area and is mapped across the majority of the site.

21. The soil has a clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay, with few stones within the profile. The depths to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. Occasionally sandy clay loam may be present in the subsoil.

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

Other Land

23. Other land occupies 6.3 hectares (23%) of the site area and includes Blackfield End Farm, a caravan park and housing.

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SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1982 & 1950) Sheet 75, Preston Solid and Drift Editions.
1: 50 000 and 1:63 360 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.