

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

WESTGILL END, HARRINGTON, CUMBRIA

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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**1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT WESTGILL END,
HARRINGTON, CUMBRIA**

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This 23 hectare site is located around National Grid Reference NX 995245 about 1 km south east of Harrington on the west Cumbrian coast.

Survey work was carried out in April 1989, when soils were examined by hand auger borings at 26 points predetermined by the National Grid. Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Average annual rainfall is approximately 1128 mm. Accumulated temperature above 0°C (January to June) is 1323 day °C and the mean duration of field capacity is approximately 254 field capacity days per year. As the site is only 1 km from the coast, exposure to wind is likely to be higher than further inland. Wind velocity data provided by the Meteorological Office indicates, however, that exposure to high winds is no more severe at Harrington than elsewhere on the west or east coasts of Northern England. This suggests that exposure is not severe enough to downgrade the site below the overall climatic limitation of subgrade 3a which applies to this area.

Relief is mainly gentle although some slopes do exceed 7°. Average altitude is 75 m a.o.d.

1.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Soils are formed on glacial and post glacial drift deposits. The drift is light textured on the higher land producing coarse loamy topsoils over moderately stony, sandy subsoils. These soils are not limited by soil wetness. Elsewhere the drift is heavier textured and topsoils are fine loamy over slowly permeable, clayey subsoils. These soils fall within Wetness Class IV and are limited by wetness and workability problems.

1.4 LAND USE

All land is under grass and used for livestock production.

1.5 Agricultural Land Classification

Grade	Area (ha)	% of site area
3a	8.8	38
3b	8.8	38
4	<u>5.4</u>	<u>24</u>
Total	<u>23.0</u>	<u>100</u>

1.5.1 Subgrade 3a

This subgrade is common in the western and northern parts of the site. Typical profiles have a sandy loam topsoil over a similar or slightly lighter textured subsoil. This land is freely drained, falls within Wetness Class I and has no wetness limitation. Exposure and the overall climatic limitation are the only reasons for not placing it within a higher grade.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3b

Areas in the centre of the site with medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoils, over slowly permeable subsoils at about 30 cm fall within Wetness Class IV. Land of this type is subject to severe wetness and workability limitations and is restricted to subgrade 3b for this reason.

1.5.3 Grade 4

This grade is widespread to the west of the farm and near the south eastern corner of the site. Soils are similar to those included in subgrade 3b. Topsoil textures, however, are heavier making soil wetness and workability a more severe problem and restricting land of this type to Grade 4.

Resource Planning Group
April 1989