AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
HARRABY AND GARLANDS

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CARLISLE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN HARRABY AND GARLANDS

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	1.7	8.1
3a	12.4	59.3
3b	6.4	30.6
Other land		
Urban	0.4	2.0

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

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 1995. 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 20.9 ha site is situated to the south of Carlisle. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is in urban use. The land to the east, up to the M6 is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Carlisle District 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.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (NY 430542) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	857
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1339

3.2 The combination of Average Annual Rainfall and Accumulated Temperature limit the site to Climatic Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	215
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	76
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	60

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 drift geology of the area is comprised of Boulder Clay and Sand and Gravel - British Geological Survey Sheet 18 Brampton 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture in the east of the site, or a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 1.7 ha (8.1%) of the survey area and is found in the north east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay loam and loamy sand. These soils are not gleyed and do not have a slowly permeable layer. The combination of soil texture and field capacity days places these soils in Wetness Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 12.4 ha (59.3%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has clay loam texture over clay loam to depth, occasionally with sandy textures. The subsoils are gleyed but there is no slowly permeable layer, placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 6.4 ha (30.6%) of the survey area and is found in the west of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay. 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 Other land on the site includes urban comprising 0.4 ha (2.0%) and consisting of a boiler house for the hospital..

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	1.7	8.1	8.3
3a	12.4	59.3	60.5
3b	6.4	30.6	31.2
Other land			
Urban	0.4	2.0	
Totals	**20.9**	**100.0**	**100.0**