

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BARROW - IN - FURNESS LOCAL PLAN
NORTH SCALE

Resource Planning Team
ADAS STATUTORY GROUP
Wolverhampton

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MAFF Ref: EL08/10094

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR

BARROW - IN - FURNESS LOCAL PLAN

NORTH SCALE

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey of this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
3b	25.1	94.7
Urban	0.2	0.8
Non-Agricultural	1.2	4.5

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 1993. The survey was requested by MAFF to provide information for the Barrow-In-Furness Local Plan.
- 2.2 A detailed grid survey was undertaken at 1:10000 scale, with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare, and followed the guidelines laid down in the "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of the Land," (MAFF, 1988).
- 2.3 The attached map is accurate only at base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.4 The 26.5 ha site is situated south of Walney Airfield on Walney Island. The surrounding land is in urban, non-agricultural and agricultural use and at the time of survey the site was under permanent pasture.

3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant to the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	977mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1411 day°C

3.2 In terms of temperature and rainfall the climatic grade of the site is marginally grade 1. However the coastal location means that the site suffers a high degree of exposure from the prevailing winds. Thus a climate grade of 3a has been applied to the site.

3.3 Other climate data relevant to the site are:

Field Capacity Days	218 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	75mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	59mm

4. **SITE**

4.1 The assessment of site factors is primarily concerned with the way in which topography influences the use of agricultural machinery. The site factors assessed are; gradient, microrelief and flooding.

4.2 Gradient, microrelief and flooding do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land at this site.

5. **Geology and Soils**

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Triassic Mudstones. This is overlain by Boulder Clay, (British Geological Survey Sheet 58, Barrow, 1:50000).

5.2 The soils developed on the Boulder Clay consist of medium clay loam or silty clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils.

6. **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Subgrade 3b occupies 25.1 ha (94.7%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soils consist of medium clay loam or silty clay loam topsoils over heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. Gleying is present in the topsoil and subsoil and a slowly permeable layer occurs in the subsoil.

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

6.2 Other land includes an area given over to allotments and sheds which has been graded as non-agricultural land and occupies 1.2 ha (4.5%) of the surveyed area. The road bisecting the site has been graded as urban.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	25.1	94.7	100.0
Urban	0.2	0.8	
Non Agricultural	1.2	4.5	
Totals	26.5	100.0	100.0

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