

AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATION AND STATEMENT
OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

COLLIERS DEAN, NORTHUMBERLAND
PROPOSED OPENCAST COAL SITE

ADAS
LEEDS REGIONAL OFFICE

REF 2FCS 4176. 2/89

lds.rpg3.colliers.dean

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**1. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT ON LAND AT
COLLIERS DEAN, NORTHUMBERLAND**

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The site is located around National Grid Reference **NZ 230 970** about 2½ km west of the village of Widdrington. Adjoining to the east is the present Chevington West open cast coal site. Colliers Dean covers an area 148.6 hectares 48.2% of which is in agricultural use.

Survey work was carried out in early February 1989, when soils were examined by hand auger borings to a depth of one metre. Borings were made at points predetermined by the National Grid at a density of one per hectare. Additional borings were made where necessary to check and refine grade boundaries. Two profile pits were dug to collect data on soil morphology and obtain samples for laboratory analysis.

Land quality assessments were made using the revised guidelines published by MAFF in 1988.

1.2 CLIMATE AND RELIEF

Average annual rainfall is approximately 669 mm and the accumulated temperature above 0°C (January to June) is 1311°C. The site is at field capacity for 175 days a year.

These factors indicate the site has an overall climatic limitation of grade 2.

The land is virtually level across the whole site with an average altitude of about 32 m a.o.d.

1.3 GEOLOGY SOILS AND DRAINAGE

Drift deposits cover all the whole site and solid strata is not encountered within one metre of the surface. Soil textures reflect the nature of the parent material which is mainly boulder clay. Topsoils

consist typically of heavy clay loam over subsoils of mottled slowly permeable clay.

The average field capacity period in the area of 175 days places boulder clay soils of this type in Wetness Class IV. A small area of land south of Chevington level crossing contains some soils developed on coarse textured drift. Topsoils and subsoils are both sandy and very permeable and fall within Wetness Class I. Because of their light sandy nature these soils are likely to be droughty for wheat.

1.4 LAND USE

The site contains three distinct land uses. To the east is part of the existing West Chevington open cast area. Longmoor Plantation and Neds Whin in the south consist of dense scrubby woodlands. The rest of the site forms part of West Chevington farm where land use is a mixture of arable and grassland.

1.5 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

GRADE	Area (hectares)	Percentage of Total Agricultural Land Area
3a	3.6	5.0
3b	65.7	91.8
4	2.3	3.2
Non Agricultural	<u>77.0</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>148.6</u>	<u>100</u>

1.5.1 Subgrade 3a

The small area mapped as 3a contains coarse loamy topsoils over sandy subsoils, occasionally with clay below 80 cm depth. These soils fall within Wetness Class I and are therefore not subject to any soil wetness limitation. Available water calculations, however, suggest that these soils will be moderately droughty for both wheat and potatoes restricting them to no better than subgrade 3a.

1.5.2 Subgrade 3b

Most of the agricultural land across the site is graded 3b. Typically topsoils are at heavy clay loam over a mottled, slowly permeable, clayey subsoil. All profiles fall within Wetness Class IV. Land with this combination of topsoil texture and soil wetness class is restricted to a maximum of subgrade 3b in this area.

1.5.3 Grade 4

The two small areas of grade four occur in slight depressions which are likely to be wet for prolonged periods of the year. Topsoils are usually of clay over similar subsoils.

1.5.4 Non Agricultural

The two areas of dense scrubby woodland (Neds Whin and Longmoor Plantation) are classified as non agricultural. Also included in this category is the area currently being worked for coal.

Reference

MAFF 1988 Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.

Resource Planning Group
February 1989

**2.0 COLLIERS DEAN, NORTHUMBERLAND, PROPOSED OPEN CAST COAL SITE.
STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS
(SOIL PROPERTIES AND RESOURCES)**

Soils on the site are all derived from drift deposits, mainly boulder clay. The topsoil and subsoil resources on the site are shown on the accompanying maps, along with soil depth and volume information.

2.1 Boulder Clay Derived Soils

This soil type dominates the site and there is little variation within the unit. The topsoil is usually a dark greyish brown, stoneless, heavy clay loam with a moderately developed coarse angular blocky structure.

The subsoil texture is generally clay. Subsoil matrix colour is brown, becoming dark brown below 45 cm with very many ochreous and grey mottles.

Structure is very coarse prismatic passing to massive below 70 cm. Stone content is less than 1%.

Soils in the woodland areas are similar except for a thinner topsoil.

On the resource map this soil corresponds with topsoil units T1A (farmland) and T1B (woodland) and subsoil units S1A and S1B.

2.2 Sandy Drift Derived Soil

A small area containing sandy soils occurs near the railway in the western part of the site. Topsoils in this unit, which is not pure as it also contains some heavier soil, consist mainly of unmottled stoneless medium sandy loam with a moderately developed medium and coarse subangular blocky structure.

The subsoil is a stoneless very pale brown medium sand with many ochreous mottles, and a very weakly developed coarse angular blocky structure. These soils correspond with topsoil unit T2, and subsoil unit S2 on the accompanying maps.

2.3.1 Colliers Dean, Soil Profile Description
Profile Pit A, Boulder Clay Derived Soil

Land Use Grass
Slope 0°

Horizon (cm)

0-25 Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) heavy clay loam; few distinct strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) mottles along root channels; stoneless, moist; moderately developed coarse angular blocky structure; high packing density, slightly porous; common fine pores and fissures; moderately firm soil strength; very sticky, very plastic; abundant very fine fibrous roots; non calcareous; abrupt smooth boundary.

25-100 Brown (10YR 5/3) becoming dark brown (7.5YR 4/2) below 45 cm clay; many prominent medium and large grey (N5) and strong brown (7.5YR 5/8) mottles; very rare subrounded sandstones (absent below 50 cm); moist; weakly developed adherent very coarse prismatic structure becoming massive towards base; high packing density; very slightly porous; common very fine pores and fissures; very firm soil strength very sticky and very plastic; many very fine fibrous roots becoming few below 70 cm; non calcareous.

2.3.2 Profile Pit B, Sandy Drift Derived Soil

Land Use Grass
Slope 0°

Horizon (cm)

- 0-23 Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) medium sandy loam; unmottled; stoneless; moist; moderately developed medium and coarse subangular blocky structure; medium packing density; very porous; many fine pores and common fissures; moderately firm slightly compacted; slightly sticky; slightly plastic; many very fine fibrous roots; non calcareous; abrupt wavy boundary.
- 23-78 Very pale brown (10YR 7/4) medium sand; many distinct brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) mottles; stoneless; moist; very weakly developed coarse angular blocky structure; medium packing density very porous; few very fine pores and fissures; very weak soil strength; non sticky; non plastic; few very fine fibrous roots; non calcareous abrupt smooth boundary.
- 78-100 Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) fine sandy silt loam with fine black (N2) laminations; stoneless; wet (water standing at 92 cm); weakly developed fine and medium platy structure; medium packing density; moderately porous; few fine pores and fissures; moderately weak soil strength; slightly sticky, slightly plastic; no roots; non calcareous.

SCHEDULE OF SOIL AUGER BORINGS

TEXTURE

FS	Fine sand
MS	Medium sand
CS	Coarse sand
LFS	Loamy fine sand
LMS	Loamy medium sand
LCS	Loamy coarse sand
CSL	Coarse sandy loam
MSL	Medium sandy loam
FSL	Fine sandy loam
FSZL	Fine sandy silt loam
MSZL	Medium sandy silt loam
CSZL	Coarse sand silt loam
ZL	Silt loam
MZCL	Medium silty clay loam
HZCL	Heavy silty clay loam
MCL	Medium clay loam
HCL	Heavy clay loam
SCL	Sandy clay loam
SC	Sandy clay
ZC	Silty clay
C	Clay
P	Peat
SP	Sandy peat
LP	Loamy peat
PL	Peaty loam
PS	Peaty sand
MZ	Marine light silts

MOTTLING

Col	Colour
Abund	Abundance
Cont	Contrast
o	Ochreous
g	Grey
m	Manganese
f	Few
c	Common
m	Many
a	Abundant
f	Faint
d	Distinct
p	Prominent

COLLIERS DEAN SCHEDULE OF SOIL AUGER BORINGS

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			STONY	PACK DENSITY
				COL	ABUND	CONT		
001	0-27	hcl	10YR42					
	27-60	c	10YR54	OG	C			D
	60-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
002	0-27	hcl	10YR42	OG	F			D
	27-45	hcl	10YR63	OG	M			D
	45-100	zc	75YR	OG	M			P
003	0-20	hcl	10YR42					
	20-30	c	10YR42	O	F			D
	30-45	c	10YR53	OG				
	45-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
004	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-45	c	10YR63	OG	M			
	45-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
005	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
	25-60	c	10YR42	O	F			
	60-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
006	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-50	c	10YR53	OG	M			P
	50-100	hcl	75YR42	OGM	C			D
007	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
008	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
	25-50	sci	10YR53	OG	M			P
	50-70	sl	10YR53	OG	M			
	70-100	zc	7YR52					

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
009	0-25	hc1	10YR42					
	25-33	c	10YR53	OG	C			D
	33-100	zc	75YR62	OG	M			P
010	0-25	mc1	10YR42	OG	M			P
	25-45	hc1	10YR52	O	F			F
	45-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
011	0-40	mc1	10YR42					
	40-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
012	0-30	hc1	10YR42					
	30-40	c	10YR53	O	C			F
	40-100	c	75YR42	OG	C			D
013	0-30	hc1	10YR42					
	30-40	hc1	10YR53	O	F			F
	40-100	c	75YR42	OGM	C			D
014	0-30	hc1	10YR42					
	30-45	hc1	10YR53	O	C			F
	45-100	c	75YR42	OG	C			D
015	0-25	hc1	10YR42					
	25-50	hc1	10YR54	OG	C			D
	50-100	zc	75YR52	OGM	M			P
016	0-25	hc1	10YR41					
	25-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
017	0-25	hc1	10YR42					
	25-37	hc1	10YR53	O	C			D
	37-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
018	0-25	hc1	10YR42	OG				P
	25-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			D
019	0-30	hc1	10YR42					
	30-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			D
020	0-35	mc1	10YR42					
	35-100	c	75YR40	OG	C			D
021	NOT SURVEYED							
022	0-25	hc1	10YR32					
	25-40	c	10YR53	OG	C			D
	40-100	zc	10YR52	OG	M			P
023	0-23	hc1	10YR32	O	F			D
	23-100	zc	10YR52		C			D
024-027	NOT SURVEYED							
028	0-27	mc1	10YR42					
	27-40	hc1	10YR54	OG	C			D
	40-65	sl	10YR53	OG	C			D
	65-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
029	0-27	hc1	10YR41					
	27-100	c	10YR53	OG	C			D
030	0-27	mc1.hc1	10YR42					
	27-45	hc1	10YR54	OG	F			D
	45-100	c	10YR52	OG	M			P

BORING				MOTTLES			PACK	
NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
031	0-27	hcl	10YR42					
	27-40	cq	10YR54	OG	C			D
	40-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M			P
032-035		NOT SURVEYED						
036	0-30	hcl	10YR43	OG	M			P
	30-100	c	N5	OG	C			D
037	0-30	hcl	10YR42	OG	M			P
	30-100	c	N5	OG	M			P
038	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-30	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
039	0-30	mcl	10YR42	OG	C			P
	30-65	hcl	10YR51	OG	M			D
	65-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
040	0-30	mcl	10YR42	OG	M			P
	30-100	c	10YR51	OG	C			P
041	0-30	hcl	10YR42	OG	M			P
	30-100	zc	10YR61	OG	M			P
042	0-30	mcl	10YR42					
	30-50	hcl	10YR52	OG	C			D
	50-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
043	0-35	hcl	10YR42	O	G			M
	35-55	hcl	10YR52	O	C			D
	55-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			D
044-046		NOT SURVEYED						

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
047	0-30	hcl.c	10YR32					
	30-65	c	10YR52	O	C			D
	65-100	c	10YR53	O	C			D
048	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-100	c	75YR44	G	M			D
049	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-50	hcl	10YR53	OG	C			D
	50-100	c	75YR44	G	M			D
050	0-30	hcl	109YR42					
	30-55	c	75YR44	OG	C			D
	55-100	c	75YR44	G	M			D
051	0-30	mcl	10YR42					
	30-70	lms	10YR53	GM	C			F
	70-100	c	75YR44	G	C			D
052	0-28	mcl	10YR42	O	C			F
	28-100	c	75YR44	OG	M			D
053	0-30	mcl	10YR42	O	F			F
	30-100	scl	10YR62	O	C			D
054	0-30	hcl	10YR42	O	C			D
	30-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			D
055	0-30	hcl	10YR42	OG	M			D
	30-50	scl	10YR52	OG	C			D
	50-100	c	75YR42	O	G			M

056-058 NOT SURVEYED

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
059	0-30	hcl	10YR32					
	30-45	c	10YR53	OG	C			D
	45-100	c	75YR44	OG	C			D
060	0-25	msl	10YR42					
	25-90	lms	10YR54	OG	C			D
	90-100	lms	10YR62					
061	0-25	hcl.c	10YR42					
	25-100	c	75YR52	G	C			D
062	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
	25-100	c	75YR42	G	C			D
063	0-28	hcl	10YR42					
	28-50	c	10YR53	OG	C			D
	50-100	c	75YR42	G	M			P
064	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-45	hcl	10YR54	OG	M			F
	45-100	zc	10YR53	OG	C			D
065	0-30	hcl	10YR42	O	C			F
	30-50	c	10YR53	OG	M			P
	50-100	c	75YR42	G	C			D
066-071	NOT SURVEYED							
072	0-30	mcl	10YR42					
	30-55	lms	10YR63	OG	C			D
	55-80	lms	10YR58	ZG	C			D
	80-100	c	75YR42	OGM	C			D

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
073	0-30	hcl	10YR42					
	30-50	hcl	10YR53	O	C	F		
	50-100	c	7.5YR42	OG	C	D		
074	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
	25-100	c	75YR42	OGM	C	D		
075	0-25	hcl	10YR42	OG	C	D		
	25-100	c	75YR52	OG	M	P		
076	0-25	hcl	10YR32	OG	M	P		
	25-100	c	75YR42	OG	C	D		
077	0-25	hcl	10YR42	O	F	F		
	25-100	c	75YR52	G	M	D		
078	0-30	hcl	10YR42	O	C	F		
	30-45	c	10YR53	OG	M	D		
	45-100	c	75YR42	OGM	C	D		
079-084	NOT SURVEYED							
085	0-30	fsl	10YR32					
	30-40	sl	10YR74	OG	C	D		
	40-70	ms	10YR68	O	F	F		
	70-100	lms	10YR54	O	F	D		
086	0-25	hcl	10YR42					
	25-35	hcl	10YR54	OG	F	D		
	35-100	zc	10YR63	OG	M	P		
087	0-27	zc	10YR42	O	F	D		
	27-100	zc	75YR60	OG	M	P		

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
088	0-27	hcl	10YR41	O	F			D
	27-50	msl	10YR63	O	F			D
	50-100	zc	75YR62	OG	M			
089	0-30	hcl	10YR42	OG	M			P
	30-100	c	75YR52	OG	M			P
090	0-30	hcl	10YR42	O	F			F
	30-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			P
091	0-25	hcl	10YR42	O	F			F
	35-40	hcl	10YR53	O	F			F
	40-55	c	10YR53	OG	M			D
	55-100	c	75YR42	OG	M			D
092	0-25	zc	10YR	O	C			F
	25-50	c	10YR62	OG	M			P
	50-100	c	75YR42	OG	C			D
093-097	NOT SURVEYED							
098	0-30	mcl	10YR42					
	30-40	lms	10YR63	O	F			D
	40-60	ms	10YR63	O	F			D
	60-80	msl	10YR63	O	F			D
	80-100	lms.ms	10YR63	O	F			D
099	0-25	c	10YR42	O	F			D
	25-100	c	75YR52	OG	M			P
100	0-27	c	10YR42	O	F			D
	27-100	zc	75YR52		M			P

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
101	0-25	hcl	10YR32	O	F			
	25-50	c	10YR62	OG	M		P	
	50-100	zc	75YR52	OG	M		P	
102	0-25	hcl	10YR42	OG	M		P	
	25-100	c	75YR42	OG			P	
103	0-12	dist.hcl	10YR52	OG	M		P	
	12-0	0	NOT	OG	M		P	
			RECORDED					
	0-100	cinders	0					
104-110	NOT SURVEYED							
111	0-32	sl	10YR41	OG	C		D	
	32-60	sl	10YR64	OG	C		D	
	60-100	ls	10YR66	O	F		F	
112	0-30	hcl.c	10YR42	O	F		D	
	30-37	c	10YR53	OG	C		D	
	100-120	zc	75YR52	OG	M		P	
113	0-100	c	N5	OG	M		P	
114	0-20	hcl	10YR52	OG	C		D	
	20-100	c	75YR42	OG	M		P	
115	0-15	hcl	10YR52	O			D	
	15-100	c	N5	OG	M		P	
116-122	NOT SURVEYED							

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	MOTTLES			PACK		
			COLOUR	COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
123	0-30	scl	NOT RECORDED					
	30-45	scl	0	"	"			
	45-60	c	0	"	"			
	60-100	scl	0	"	"			
124	0-32	hcl	0	"	"			
	32-100	c	0	"	"	OG	M	
125	0-25	hcl	0	"	"	OG	F D	
	25-45	c	z	"	"	OG	P	
	45-100	zc	0	"	"	OG	P	
126	0-15	c	N4		OG	C	D	
	15-100	c	N5		OG	M	P	
127	0-20	hcl	10YR51		OG	M	P	
	20-100	c	N5		OG	M	P	
128	0-25	hcl	NOT		OG	C	D	
			RECORDED					
	25-100	c	10YR61		OG	C	D	
129-134	NOT SURVEYED							
135	0-30	mc1	NOT RECORDED					
	30-40	scl	0	"	"	OG	M D	
	40-55	sl	0	"	"	OG	M P	
136	0-6	litter	0	"	"			
	6-45	c	0	"	"	OG	P	
	45-100	zc	0	"	"	OG	M P	
137	0-15	hcl	0	"	"			
	15-100	c	0	"	"	OG	M P	

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			STONY	PACK DENSITY
				COL	ABUND	CONT		
138	0-100	c	10YR51	OG	M	D		
139	0-10	mcl	10YR32					
	10-90	mcl	10YR53	OG	M	D		
	90-100	c	N5					
140	0-15	hcl	10YR52					
	15-60	c	10YR53	OG	C	D		
	60-100	c	75YR52	OG	C	D		
141	0-15	hcl	10YR32					
	15-60	c	10YR53	OG	M	D		
	60-100	c	75YR52	OG	C	D		
142	0-15	c	10YR32					
	15-45	c	10YR53	OG	M	D		
	45-100	c	75YR42	G	M	D		
143	0-15	hcl	10YR32					
	15-50	c	10YR42	OG	M	D		
	50-100	c	75YR42	G	M	D		
	100-0	0	N5					
144	0-20	scl	10YR42					
	20-45	scl	10YR53	OG	M	P		
	45-100	c	75YR42	G	M	D		
145	0-20	mcl	10YR32	O	C	D		
	20-55	hcl	10YR52	OG	M	P		
	55-100	c	75YR42	G	M	D		
146	0-20	hzcl	10YR32	O	C	D	H	
	20-50	zc	10YR52	OG	M	P	H	
	50-100	c	75YR42	G	C	D	H	

BORING NUMBER	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PACK	
				COL	ABUND	CONT	STONY	DENSITY
147	0-15	hcl	10YR32	O	C	F		
	15-70	c	10YR52	OG	M	P		H
	70-100	c	75YR42	G	C	D		H
148	0-15	hcl	10YR32					
	15-50	c	10YR53	OG	M	P		H
	50-100	c	75YR42	G	M	D		H