



British Wool

GRADE STANDARDS 2020

BRITISH WOOL | WOOL HOUSE, SIDINGS CLOSE, CANAL ROAD, BRADFORD BD2 1AZ

British Wool Grading System

The British Wool grading system categorises wool based upon both its style and characteristics.

The style of wool is generally determined by its staple length, crimp, fineness, handle and lustre. There are six main styles of British Wool:

- **Fine** with Southdown as a sub category
- **Medium** with Romney as a sub category
- **Mule** otherwise known as Crossbred
- **Lustre** with Bluefaced Leicester and Devon as the two main sub categories
- **Hill** with Cheviot, Fine / Medium Hill and Lonk as the three main sub categories
- **Mountain** with Welsh Mountain, Swaledale and Blackface as the three main sub categories

In addition British Wool produces a number of speciality wools which have distinctive characteristics and are usually specific to a particular breed. These speciality types are Dorset, Jacob, Masham, Teeswater / Wensleydale, Lincoln, Shetland, Exmoor Horn, Hebridean and Herdwick.

Within each style of wool, fleeces are graded by quality with judgements made across a range of characteristics. These characteristics include:

- Whether the wool comes from a Hogg or a Ewe
- Colour
- Staple strength
- Uniformity
- Kemp
- Grey fibre
- Cotts
- First / Second shear

In total British Wool produces almost 120 grades of fleece wool. Each of these is identified with a grade number and short description. British Wool also produces Organic and Winter Shorn variants of these fleece grades where appropriate.

In addition British Wool produces more than 20 grades of lamb wool.

Any wool that is wet, damaged, contaminated with excess vegetable matter, tainted or excessively marked is placed into a fault grade and sold separately, as are locks and oddments.

The characteristics of each British Wool grade are detailed in the tables below.

British Wool Styles

Each style of British Wool has a distinctive character as described below.

Fine

Fine Wool is predominantly characterised by its short staple length (2" to 5") and its soft feel. Fine Wool tends to have a spongy, springy texture and may contain some grey fibres. It should be free from lustre, kemp and cotts.

Southdown

Southdown Wool is predominantly characterised by its very short staple length (1" to 2.5") and its very soft feel. It may have a slight lustre but should be free from kemp and cotts.

Medium

Medium Wool is predominantly characterised by its staple length (4" to 6") and the fineness of the fleece. It may carry some slight lustre and a small amount of kemp but should be free from cotts. The No 1 and No 2 grades should have minimal grey fibres.

Romney

Romney Wool is characterised by a well-defined, wavy crimp and a good lustre. The staple length is typically 4" to 7". It should be free from kemp and grey fibres but may be discoloured.

Mule

Mule Wool is predominantly characterised by a slight lustre with a clear, small wave to the crimp. The wool is generally of a medium micron with a fairly soft / medium handle. The staple length can be between 3" and 9". It may have some kemp and carry the odd grey fibre. Mule grades are produced with regional variations.

Bluefaced Leicester

Bluefaced Leicester Wool has a very fine micron with a distinctive tight wave to the crimp and high lustre. The wool feels silky and the staple length is typically in the range of 3" to 6". Bluefaced Leicester Wool should be free of kemp and cotts. Fleeces are relatively small.

Devon

Devon Wool is relatively coarse with a high lanolin content, and is semi-lustrous. The staple length is typically in the range of 6" to 8" and it should be free from kemp and grey fibres.

Fine Hill

Fine Hill Wool has a relatively short staple length (3" to 5") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. The wool is quite dry and has a fairly harsh handle and is prone to carrying both grey fibres and some kemp. These grades were previously known as "Fine Radnor".

Medium Hill

Medium Hill Wool has a staple length of 4" to 6" and generally has a fairly harsh handle. The wool is quite dry, carries kemp or excess kemp and may contain grey. These grades were previously known as "Medium Radnor".

Cheviot

Cheviot Wool has a relatively short staple length (3" to 5") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. Cheviot wool is quite dry, with relatively low amounts of lanolin, has a weaker staple and should have no grey fibres. Fleeces from Ewes may contain a small amount of kemp. Cheviot cross types have gone "wild" and are more likely to carry kemp.

Lonk

Lonk Wool has a relatively short staple length (2" to 6") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. The wool has a relatively soft handle and fleeces have good volume. The staple has a distinctive "Smoky" tip and the wool is prone to both grey fibres and kemp but should be free from cotts.

Blackface

Blackface Wool is generally medium or coarse and has a fairly harsh handle with a dry feel. There is no crimp and the staple length can be 12" or more. Blackface Wool typically carries some kemp and grey fibres.

Welsh Mountain

Welsh Mountain Wool is generally medium or coarse and has a harsh or very harsh handle. There is no crimp and the staple length is typically 2" to 6". Welsh Mountain Wool carries some grey and a significant amount of kemp and/or red kemp and may be cotty.

Swaledale

Swaledale Wool is coarse with a harsh handle. There is no crimp and the staple length is typically 5" to 8". Swaledale Wool carries both grey fibres and excess kemp.

Speciality types

Dorset

Dorset Wool is a speciality type of Fine Wool. It is distinguished by its very dense feel and broad staple. It should be white in colour and free from kemp, grey or cotts.

Jacob

Jacob Wool is a speciality type of Medium Wool. It is distinguished by its mixed colour, with fleeces being part white and part brown / black. It generally has a slight sheen and carries some kemp with the odd grey fibre.

Masham

Masham Wool is a speciality type of Cross Wool. It is distinguished by a clear crimp with a medium sized wave, tending towards a curl, and a high lustre. The staple length is typically 6" to 10" and it should be free from cotts. It may carry an odd grey or kempy fibre.

Teeswater / Wensleydale

Teeswater / Wensleydale Wool is a speciality type of Lustre Wool. It is distinguished by a very long staple (up to 18") with a well-defined curl and silky feel. Teeswater / Wensleydale Wool has a high lustre and should be free from kemp, grey and cotts. Fleeces can be relatively large.

Lincoln

Lincoln Wool is a speciality type of Lustre Wool. It is relatively coarse with a long staple (up to 18") and despite having high lustre, has a fairly harsh handle. Lincoln Wool should be free of kemp, grey or cotts.

Shetland

Shetland Wool is a speciality type of Hill Wool. It is very fine, with a short staple (less than 5") and a slight lustre. Shetland fleeces are relatively small and come in a range of colours. The wool should be free from cotts, and white grades should be free from grey fibres but fleeces may carry an odd kempy fibre. Shetland wool typically has a high grease content and a distinctive smell.

Exmoor Horn

Exmoor Horn Wool is a speciality type of Hill Wool with similarities to Cheviot Wool. It has a short staple length (3" to 4.5") but lacks the spongy, springy feel of Fine Wool. The wool is quite dry, with relatively low amounts of lanolin, and can have a fairly harsh handle. The staple is fairly sound but should be free from cotts and should have no grey fibres. It may however carry an odd kempy fibre. Exmoor Horn grades are only produced in the South Molton depot.

Hebridean

Hebridean Wool is a speciality type of Mountain Wool. It is distinguished by being very dark brown or black in colour with a high grease content in the fleece. Staple length can be very irregular with a range of (2" to 9") and the handle can range from soft to harsh. The Number 2 and Cotts grades may carry kemp and grey fibres.

Herdwick

Herdwick Wool is a speciality type of Mountain wool. It is typically grey or dark grey in colour and has a very harsh handle. The wool is very coarse, almost wiry, and carries excess kemp. The staple length is typically 3" to 6".

The standards for each of the grades within these styles are detailed in the tables below.

Disclaimer

British Wool is a natural product with inherent variability and this document should be used for guidance only. Whilst every effort is made to ensure product quality and consistency the grading process is, by its nature, subjective. Every fleece handled by British Wool is graded by hand but fleeces are not unrolled or skirted. Individual fleeces within a sale lot may therefore display characteristics other than those set out in the guide below. The only certification that applies to a sale contract is that provided by WTAE on the test certificate.

Fine Wool

Fine Wool is predominantly characterised by its short staple length (2" to 5") and its soft feel. Fine Wool tends to have a spongy, springy texture and may contain some grey fibres. It should be free from lustre, kemp and cotts.

Typical Breeds

Fine Wool commonly derives from the following breeds of sheep; Suffolk, Clun Forest, Shropshire, Oxford, Dorset, Hampshire Down.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Fine Hogs No 1	221	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine	30.0 to 32.5	Soft	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	Uniform	Sound	None	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine Hogs No 2	222	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine	30.0 to 33.0	Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine Ewes No 1	226	Ewe	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	32.5 to 35.5	Soft	White / Creamy	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	Uniform	Sound	None	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine Ewes No 2	232	Ewe	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	31.5 to 35.0	Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine Light Grey	290	Both	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	31.5 to 35.0	Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	None	Grey is the overriding factor	None
Fine Dark Grey / Black	291	Both	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	33.0 to 36.0	Soft	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	None	Colour is the overriding factor	None

Southdown

Southdown Wool is predominantly characterised by its very short staple length and its very soft feel. It may have a slight lustre but should be free from kemp and cotts.

Typical Breeds

Southdown Wool commonly derives from the Southdown and Charollais breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Southdown / Charollais Hogs	203	Hogg	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.0 to 31.5	Very Soft	Creamy	1.5" to 2.5"	3cm to 7cm	May be irregular	Sound	May be slight sheen	None	Some grey fibres	None
Southdown / Charollais Ewes	204	Ewe	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	28.0 to 33.0	Very Soft	Creamy	1" to 2"	2cm to 5cm	May be irregular	Sound	May be slight sheen	None	Some grey fibres	None

Medium Wool

Medium Wool is predominantly characterised by its staple length (4" to 6") and the fineness of the fleece. It may carry some slight lustre and a small amount of kemp but should be free from cotts. The No 1 and No 2 grades should have minimal grey fibres.

Typical Breeds

Medium Wool commonly derives from the following breeds of sheep; Texel, Lleyn, Welsh Half-bred, Scotch Half-bred, Devon Close Wool, Border Leicester, Romney Cross.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Medium Hoggs No 1	322	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	30.5 to 33.0	Soft	White / Creamy	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	Uniform	Sound	Slight	None	None	None
Medium Hoggs No 2	334	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	30.5 to 33.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Medium Ewes No 1	338	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	33.5 to 36.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	None	None	None
Medium Ewes No 2	345	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	32.5 to 35.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	None	None
Medium Ewes Naturally Discoloured	399	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	33.5 to 36.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	Discoloured	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	None	None
Medium Ewes Deep	348	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	33.5 to 37.0	Fairly Soft / Fairly Hard	White / Creamy	6" to 8"	15cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Sound	May be slight	None	None	None
Medium Light Grey	390	Both	No	Variable	Medium	32.5 to 35.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	None
Medium Dark Grey / Black	391	Both	No	Variable	Medium	32.5 to 36.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Colour is the overriding factor	None
Medium Second Shear	2710	Both	No	Variable	Medium	33.0 to 36.0	Fairly Soft	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	Minimum 7.5cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Medium Second Shear Light Grey	2710X	Second shear	No	Variable	Medium	33.0 to 36.0	Fairly Soft	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	Minimum 7.5cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	Some kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	None

Romney

Romney Wool is characterised by a well-defined, wavy crimp and a good lustre. The staple length is typically 4" to 7". It should be free from kemp and grey fibres but may be discoloured.

Typical Breeds

Romney Wool derives from the Romney breed.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Romney Hogs No 1	305	Hogg	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Fine / Medium	29.5 to 32.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White	4" to 8"	10cm to 20cm	Uniform	Sound	Good	None	None	None
Romney Hogs No 2	306	Hogg	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Very Fine / Fine	27.5 to 31.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 8"	10cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Good	None	None	None
Romney Ewes No 1	310	Ewe	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Medium	32.5 to 36.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White	4" to 8"	10cm to 20cm	Uniform	Sound	Good	None	None	None
Romney Ewes No 2	320	Ewe	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Fine / Medium	31.0 to 35.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Good	None	None	May be cotty
Romney Naturally Discoloured	321	Both	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Medium	32.0 to 35.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	Discoloured	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Good	None	None	May be cotty
Romney Second Shear	2700	Second shear	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Medium	32.5 to 36.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Sound	Good	None	None	None

Mule Wool

Mule Wool is predominantly characterised a clear, small wave to the crimp and a slight lustre. The wool is generally of a medium micron with a fairly soft / medium handle. The staple length can be between 3" and 9". It may have some kemp and carry the odd grey fibre. Mule grades are produced with regional variations.

Welsh Mule

Welsh Mule Wool commonly derives from the cross of a Bluefaced Leicester tup with a Beulah or Welsh Mountain.

Welsh Mule grades are produced in Newtown, Porthmadog and Brecon depots.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Mule Hogs No 1 (Welsh)	461	Hogg	No	Small wave	Fine	29.5 to 31.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	6" to 9"	15cm to 23cm	Uniform	Sound	Semi-lustre	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Hogs No 2 (Welsh)	462	Hogg	No	Small wave	Fine	29.5 to 31.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Ewes No 1 (Welsh)	463	Ewe	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	32.0 to 33.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Ewes No 2 (Welsh)	464	Ewe	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	31.5 to 33.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Soft Cotts (Welsh)	467	Both	No	Small wave	Medium	32.0 to 34.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	Soft cotts
Mule Cotts (Welsh)	468	Both	No	Small wave	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	Hard cotts
Mule Kempy (Welsh)	466	Both	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Excess kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Light Grey (Welsh)	469	Both	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	32.0 to 34.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Southern Mule

Southern Mule Wool commonly derives from the cross of a Bluefaced Leicester tup with a Suffolk, Romney or Hill / Mountain breed.

Southern Mule grades are produced in Liskeard, South Molton, Ashford and Stamford depots.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Mule Hogs No 1 (Southern)	471	Hogg	No	Small wave	Fine	30.0 to 32.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	6" to 9"	15cm to 23cm	Uniform	Sound	Semi-lustre	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Hogs No 2 (Southern)	472	Hogg	No	Small wave	Fine	30.0 to 31.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Ewes No 1 (Southern)	473	Ewe	No	Small wave	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Ewes No 2 (Southern)	474	Ewe	No	Small wave	Medium	32.0 to 34.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Soft Cotts (Southern)	477	Both	No	Small wave	Medium	32.5 to 34.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	Soft cotts
Mule Cotts (Southern)	478	Both	No	Small wave	Medium	33.0 to 34.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	Hard cotts
Mule Kempy (Southern)	476	Both	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Excess kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Light Grey (Southern)	479	Both	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	32.5 to 34.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Northern Mule

Northern Mule Wool commonly derives from the cross of a Bluefaced Leicester tup with a Swaledale or Blackface. Northern Mule Wool is less suitable for combing as the tips of the fibre are prone to breaking.

Northern Mule grades are produced in Bradford, Galashiels, Irvine, Evanton and Muckamore depots.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Mule Hogs No 1 (Northern)	481	Hogg	No	Small wave, part wild	Fine / Medium	29.5 to 32.0	Medium	White / Creamy	6" to 9"	15cm to 23cm	Uniform	Sound	Semi-lustre	None	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Hogs No 2 (Northern)	482	Hogg	No	Small wave, part wild	Fine / Medium	29.5 to 31.5	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	None	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Ewes No 1 (Northern)	483	Ewe	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 7"	10cm to 18cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	None	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Ewes No 2 (Northern)	484	Ewe	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	32.0 to 34.0	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3.5" to 7"	8cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	None	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Soft Cotts (Northern)	487	Both	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	Some grey fibres	Soft cotts
Mule Cotts (Northern)	488	Both	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	32.0 to 35.0	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 7"	10cm to 18cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	Some grey fibres	Hard cotts
Greyface Mule (Northern)	485	Both	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	35.0	Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	6" to 10"	15cm to 25cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	May be odd kempy fibre	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Kempy (Northern)	486	Both	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	Not tested	Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Mule Light Grey (Northern)	489	Both	No	Small wave, part wild	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 9"	10cm to 23cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Grey is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Dark Grey / Second Shear

The Dark Grey / Black and Second Shear derivatives of Mule wool are produced under the same grade number at all depots.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Mule Dark Grey / Black	491	Both	No	Small wave	Fine / Medium	31.0 to 35.0	Fairly Soft / Fairly Harsh	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	3" to 9"	7cm to 23cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	May be slight	Some kemp	Colour is the overriding factor	May be cotty
Mule Second Shear	2711	Second shear	No	Small wave	Medium	35.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	Uniform	Sound	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None

Lustre Wool

Bluefaced Leicester

Bluefaced Leicester Wool has a very fine micron with a distinctive tight curl and high lustre. The wool feels silky and the staple length is typically in the range of 3" to 6". Bluefaced Leicester Wool should be free of kemp and cotts. Fleeces are relatively small.

Typical Breeds

Bluefaced Leicester Wool derives from the Bluefaced Leicester breed.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Bluefaced Leicester	554	Both	Yes	Tight wave	Very Fine	25.5 to 27.5	Silky	Creamy	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	High	None	May be odd grey fibre	None
Bluefaced Leicester Light Grey	590	Both	Yes	Tight wave	Very Fine	25.5 to 27.5	Silky	Creamy	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	High	None	Some grey is the overriding factor	None
Bluefaced Dark Grey / Black	592	Both	Yes	Tight wave	Very Fine	25.0 to 29.0	Silky	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	High	None	Colour is the overriding factor	None
Bluefaced Leicester Cross / No 2	555	Both	No	Tight wave, inconsistent	Very Fine / Fine	28.0 to 31.0	Very Soft	White / Creamy	3" to 10"	7cm to 25cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	None	May be odd grey fibre	None

Bluefaced Leicester Light Grey is a NEW grade for the 2020 season.

Devon

Devon Wool is relatively coarse with a high lanolin content and is semi-lustrous. The staple length is typically in the range of 6" to 8" and it should be free from kemp and grey fibres.

Typical Breeds

Devon Wool derives from the Devon, Dartmoor and Devon & Cornwall Longwool breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Devon Cross	589	Both	Yes	Loose wave, well defined	Medium	34.5 to 37.0	Medium	White / Creamy / Discoloured	6" to 10"	15cm to 25cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	None	None	None
Devon / Dartmoor No 1	545	Both	No	Medium wave, part wild	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	6" to 8"	15cm to 20cm	Uniform	Sound	Semi-lustre	None	None	May be cotty
Devon / Dartmoor No 2	549	Both	No	Medium wave, part wild	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	6" to 8"	15cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Semi-lustre	None	None	May be cotty
Devon / Dartmoor Cotts	548	Both	No	Medium wave, part wild	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	6" to 8"	15cm to 20cm	May be irregular	Sound	Semi-lustre	None	None	Hard cotts

Hill Wool

Fine Hill

Fine Hill Wool has a relatively short staple length (3" to 5") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. The wool is quite dry and has a medium to fairly harsh handle and is prone to carrying both grey fibres and some kemp. These grades were previously known as "Fine Radnor".

Typical Breeds

Fine Hill Wool commonly derives from the following breeds of sheep; Radnor, Suffolk Crosses, Beulah, Lleyn.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Fine Hill Hogs No 1	653	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine	29.0 to 31.0	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	2.5" to 4"	6cm to 10cm	Uniform	Sound	None	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Fine Hill Hogs No 2	654	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine	29.0 to 31.5	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	2" to 4.5"	5cm to 12cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	May be odd kempy fibre	Some grey fibre	None
Fine Hill Ewes No 1	655	Ewe	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	31.5 to 34.0	Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	2.5" to 3.5"	6cm to 9cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Fine Hill No 2	659	Ewe	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	31.5 to 34.0	Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibre	None

Medium Hill

Medium Hill Wool typically has a staple length of 4" to 6" and generally has a fairly harsh handle. The wool is quite dry, carries kemp or excess kemp and may contain grey. These grades were previously known as "Medium Radnor".

Typical Breeds

Medium Hill Wool commonly derives from the following breeds of sheep; Radnor, Suffolk Crosses, Beulah, Lleyn.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Medium Hill	657	Both	No	Variable	Medium	Not tested	Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	May be excess kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Medium Hill Light Grey	669	Both	No	Variable	Medium	Not tested	Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	3.5" to 8"	8cm to 20cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	May be excess kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	None

Cheviot

Cheviot Wool has a relatively short staple length (3" to 5") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. Cheviot Wool is quite dry, with relatively low amounts of lanolin, has a weaker staple and should have no grey fibres. Fleeces from Ewes may contain a small amount of kemp. Cheviot cross types have gone "wild" and are more likely to carry kemp.

Typical Breeds

Cheviot Wool derives from the Cheviot and Lleyn breeds. The cross types can have wool from a wide variety of breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Cheviot Hogs No 1	614	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	29.5 to 32.0	Medium	White	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	Uniform	Fairly sound	None	None	None	None
Cheviot Hogs No 2	615	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	29.5 to 32.0	Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Fairly sound with some weakness	None	None	None	None
Cheviot Hogs Naturally Discoloured	698	Hogg	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	30.5 to 33.5	Medium	Discoloured	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Fairly sound with some weakness	None	None	None	None
Cheviot Ewes No 1	616	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	32.5 to 35.5	Medium	White	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	Uniform	Fairly sound	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Cheviot Ewes No 2	620	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	32.0 to 35.0	Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Fairly sound with some weakness	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Cheviot Ewes Naturally Discoloured	699	Ewe	No	Variable	Medium	33.0 to 35.5	Medium	Discoloured	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Fairly sound with some weakness	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Cheviot Cross No 1	647	Both	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Sound	None	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Cheviot Cross No 2	649	Both	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None

Lonk

Lonk Wool has a relatively short staple length (2" to 6") but lacks the spongy, springy texture of Fine Wool. The wool has a relatively soft handle and fleeces have good volume. The staple has a distinctive "Smokey" tip and the wool is prone to both grey fibres and kemp but should be free from cotts.

Lonk grades are only produced in the Bradford depot.

Typical Breeds

Lonk Wool derives from the Lonk, Gritstone and Whitefaced Woodland breeds native to the Pennines.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Fine Lonk No 1	601	Both	No	Variable	Medium	32.0 to 34.5	Soft	White / Creamy	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Medium Lonk No 1	602	Both	No	Variable	Medium	32.5 to 34.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	4" to 6"	10cm to 15cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Lonk No 2	605	Both	No	Variable	Medium	32.0 to 35.0	Soft / Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Lonk Grey	606	Both	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	32.0 to 35.5	Soft / Fairly Soft / Medium	Some grey fibres	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Grey is the overriding factor	None

Mountain Wool

Blackface

Blackface Wool is has a fairly harsh handle with a dry feel. There is no crimp and the staple length can be 12" or more. Blackface Wool typically carries some kemp and grey fibres.

Typical Breeds

Blackface Wool derives from the Blackface breed and is the predominant style of Mountain wool in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Blackface Fine No 1	725	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Soft	White / Creamy	3" to 5"	7cm to 13cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Blackface Medium No 1	723	Both	Yes	None	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	6" to 12"	15cm to 30cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Blackface No 2	732	Both	Yes	None	Fine / Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 12"	7cm to 30cm	Wide variance	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Blackface Cotts	735	Both	Yes	None	Fine / Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 12"	7cm to 30cm	Wide variance	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	Hard cotts
Blackface Mattress	722	Both	Yes	None	Very Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	8" to 18"	20cm to 45cm	Irregular	Very sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Blackface Light Grey	736	Both	Yes	None	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 18"	7cm to 45cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Grey is the overriding factor	May be cotty
Blackface Dark Grey and Black	737	Both	Yes	None	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	Dark grey / Brown / Black	3" to 18"	7cm to 45cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Colour is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Blackface Dark Grey and Black is a NEW grade for the 2020 season.

Welsh Mountain

Welsh Mountain wool is generally medium or coarse and has a harsh or very harsh handle. There is no crimp and the staple length is typically 2" to 6". Welsh Mountain Wool carries a significant amount of kemp and/or red kemp.

Typical Breeds

Welsh Mountain Wool derives from the Welsh Mountain breed and is the predominant style of Mountain wool in Wales.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Welsh No 1	760	Both	No	None	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White	4" to 10"	10cm to 25cm	Uniform	Sound	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty
Welsh No 2	763	Both	No	None	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty
Welsh Coloured Kempy	766	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Very Harsh	White / Creamy / Coloured kemp	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	May be irregular	Weak	None	Excess kemp & red kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty
Welsh Heavy Coloured Kempy	767	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Very Harsh	White / Creamy / Coloured kemp	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	Irregular	Weak	None	Excess kemp & red kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty
Welsh Steel	789	Both	No	None	Fine / Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	Steel Grey	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	Irregular	Weak	None	Excess kemp & red kemp	Consistently grey	May be cotty
Black Welsh Mountain	790	Both	No	None	Medium	Not tested	Harsh	Dark grey / Brown / Black	2.5" to 4"	6cm to 10cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty
Super Black Welsh Mountain	791	Both	No	None	Fine	30.5 to 34.0	Fairly Hard	Jet Black / Dark brown	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	Uniform	Sound	None	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	May be cotty

Swaledale

Swaledale Wool is coarse with a harsh handle. There is no crimp and the staple length is typically 5" to 8". Swaledale Wool carries both grey fibres and excess kemp.

Typical Breeds

Swaledale Wool derives from the Swaledale, Rough Fell and Dalesbred breeds and is the predominant style of Mountain wool in Northern England.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Swaledale No 1	707	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	Irregular	Sound	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Swaledale No 2	710	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Swaledale Cotts	711	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	Hard cotts
Swaledale Grey	712	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	Grey / Black patches	5" to 8"	12cm to 20cm	Irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	None	Excess kemp	Grey is the overriding factor	None
Rough Fell	720	Both	No	None	Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	8" to 18"	20cm to 45cm	Wide variance	Sound	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	May be cotty

Speciality Fleece Wools

Speciality wools are generally produced in smaller quantities with less than 100 tonnes in each type over the course of a season.

Dorset

Dorset Wool is a speciality type of Fine Wool. It is distinguished by its very dense feel and broad staple. It should be white in colour and free from kemp, grey or cotts.

Dorset Wool commonly derives from the Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Dorset Horn / Poll Dorset	205	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine	33.0 to 35.5	Soft	White	2" to 3"	5cm to 8cm	Uniform	Sound	None	None	None	None

Jacob

Jacob Wool is a speciality type of Medium Wool. It is distinguished by its mixed colour with fleeces being part white and part brown / black. It generally has a slight sheen and carries some kemp with the odd grey fibre.

Jacob Wool derives from the Jacob breed.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Jacob	351	Both	Yes	Variable	Variable	Not tested	Variable	Mixed colour (White / Brown / Black)	3" to 7"	7cm to 18cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight Sheen	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	May be cotty

Masham

Masham Wool is a speciality type of Cross Wool. It is distinguished by a clear crimp with a medium sized wave, tending towards a curl, and a high lustre. The staple length is typically 6" to 10" and it should be free from cotts. It may carry an odd grey or kempy fibre.

Masham Wool derives from the Masham breed, a traditional cross between a Teeswater and a Dalesbred.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Masham Hogs	403	Hogg	Yes	Medium wave	Medium / Coarse	32.0 to 36.0	Medium	White / Creamy / May be discoloured	8" to 10"	20cm to 25cm	May be irregular	Sound	Semi-lustre	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	May be soft cotts

Teeswater / Wensleydale

Teeswater / Wensleydale Wool is a speciality type of Lustre Wool. It is distinguished by a very long staple (up to 18") with a well-defined curl and silky feel. Teeswater / Wensleydale Wool has a high lustre and should be free from kemp, grey and cotts. Fleeces can be relatively large.

Teeswater / Wensleydale Wool derives from the Teeswater and Wensleydale breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Teeswater / Wensleydale	503	Both	Yes	Curl, well defined	Medium / Coarse	32.5 to 35.5	Silky	White / Creamy	5" to 18"	12cm to 45cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	High	None	None	None

Lincoln

Lincoln Wool is a speciality type of Lustre Wool. It is relatively coarse with a long staple (up to 18") and despite having high lustre has a fairly harsh handle. Lincoln Wool should be free of kemp, grey or cotts.

Lincoln Wool derives from the Lincoln breed.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Lincoln	506	Both	No	Variable	Medium / Very Coarse	34.5 to 41.0	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 18"	7cm to 45cm	May be irregular	Sound	High	None	None	None

Exmoor Horn

Exmoor Horn Wool is a speciality type of Hill Wool with similarities to Cheviot Wool. It has a short staple length (3" to 4.5") but lacks the spongy, springy feel of Fine Wool. The wool is quite dry, with relatively low amounts of lanolin, and can have a fairly harsh handle. The staple is fairly sound but should be free from cotts and should have no grey fibres. It may however carry an odd kempy fibre. Exmoor Horn grades are only produced in the South Molton depot.

Exmoor Horn Wool derives from the Exmoor Horn breed native to Exmoor.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Exmoor Horn No 1	674	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White	3" to 4.5"	7cm to 12cm	Uniform	Fairly sound	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Exmoor Horn No 2	676	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy / Discoloured	3" to 5.5"	7cm to 14cm	May be irregular	Fairly sound with some weakness	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None

Shetland

Shetland Wool is a speciality type of Hill Wool. It is very fine, with a short staple (less than 5") and a slight lustre. Shetland fleeces are relatively small and come in a range of colours. The wool should be free from cotts and white grades should be free from grey fibres but fleeces may carry an odd kempy fibre. Shetland wool typically has a high grease content and a distinctive smell.

Shetland Wool derives from the Shetland and Soay breeds.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Shetland White No 1	630	Both	Yes	Variable	Very Fine	27.5 to 31.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	White	1" to 3"	2cm to 8cm	Uniform	Sound	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Shetland White No 2	633	Both	Yes	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	29.0 to 31.0	Fairly Soft	White / Creamy	1" to 5"	2cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Shetland Moorit No 1	631	Both	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	28.0 to 29.5	Fairly Soft	Light Brown	1" to 5"	2cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Shetland Light Grey	632	Both	Yes	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.0 to 29.5	Fairly Soft	White / Creamy	1" to 5"	2cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	Some grey is the overriding factor	None
Shetland Dark Grey / Black No 1	634	Both	Yes	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.0 to 31.0	Fairly Soft	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	1" to 5"	2cm to 13cm	May be irregular	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	Colour is the overriding factor	None
Shetland Coloured No 2	635	Both	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Soft / Fairly Soft / Medium	Grey / Dark Grey / Brown	1" to 5"	2cm to 13cm	May be irregular	May be weak	Slight	Some kemp	Colour is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Hebridean

Hebridean Wool is a speciality type of Mountain Wool. It is distinguished by being very dark brown or black in colour with a high grease content in the fleece. Staple length can be very irregular with a range of (2" to 9") and the handle can range from soft to harsh. The Number 2 and Cotts grades may carry kemp and grey fibres.

Hebridean Wool derives from the Hebridean breed.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Hebridean No 1	636	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium / Coarse	31.5 to 32.5	Soft / Medium / Harsh	Jet Black / Dark Brown	2" to 9"	5cm to 23cm	Wide variance	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Hebridean No 2	638	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium / Coarse	31.5 to 32.5	Soft / Medium / Harsh	Jet Black / Dark Brown / Some Grey	2" to 9"	5cm to 23cm	Wide variance	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Hebridean Cotts	639	Both	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium / Coarse	31.0 to 35.0	Soft / Medium / Harsh	Jet Black / Dark Brown / Some Grey	2" to 9"	5cm to 23cm	Wide variance	Generally sound with some weakness	Slight	Some kemp	Some grey fibres	Hard cotts

Herdwick

Herdwick Wool is a speciality type of Mountain wool. It is typically grey or dark grey in colour and has a very harsh handle. The wool is very coarse, almost wiry and carries excess kemp. The staple length is typically 3" to 6".

Herdwick Wool derives from the Herdwick breed and is most common in the Lake District.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Light Herdwick	718	Both	YES	None	Very Coarse	Not tested	Very Harsh	Grey	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	Irregular	Brittle	None	Excess kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	May be cotty
Dark Herdwick	719	Both	YES	None	Very Coarse	Not tested	Very Harsh	Dark Grey / Brown / Black	3" to 6"	7cm to 15cm	Irregular	Brittle	None	Excess kemp	Colour is the overriding factor	May be cotty

Organic Wool

Any of the above grades may be produced in an Organic certified variant.

These lots are identified in sales catalogues with a “G” suffix after the grade number.

British Wool processes and sell Organic Wool separately from fleece wool and is fully audited and certified by the Soil Association.

Winter Shorn Wool

Some of the above grades may be produced in a Winter Shorn variant.

These lots are identified in sales catalogues with a “W” suffix after the grade number.

Lamb Wool

Lamb wool is typically shorter than the corresponding grade of fleece wool. As a consequence it does not hold together as a fleece does.

Fine / Medium Lamb

Fine Lamb Wool is predominantly characterised by its soft feel. Fine Lamb Wool tends to have a spongy, springy texture and may contain some grey fibres.

Medium Lamb Wool is predominantly characterised by its fineness and should not contain grey fibres.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Fine Lamb No 1	815	Lamb	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.5 to 31.0	Soft	White	1" to 3"	2cm to 8cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	None	Some grey fibres	None
Medium Lamb No 1	825	Lamb	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	28.0 to 30.5	Soft / Fairly Soft	White	2" to 4"	5cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	None	None	None
Fine / Medium Lamb No 2	828	Lamb	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.5 to 31.5	Soft / Fairly Soft	White / Creamy	1" to 4"	2cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine / Medium Lamb Naturally Discoloured	830	Lamb	No	Variable	Fine / Medium	29.0 to 32.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	Discoloured	1" to 4"	2cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	None	Some grey fibres	None
Fine / Medium Grey Lamb	890	Lamb	No	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	28.0 to 31.0	Soft / Fairly Soft	White / Creamy / Discoloured	1" to 4"	2cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	None	Grey is the overriding factor	None

Romney Lamb

Romney Lamb Wool is predominantly characterised by a well-defined, wavy crimp with more lustre than Medium Lamb Wool.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Romney Lamb No 1	808	Lamb	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Very Fine / Fine	26.5 to 31.0	Fairly Soft / Silky	White	1" to 4"	2cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	Good	None	None	None
Romney Lamb No 2	809	Lamb	Yes	Medium wave, well defined	Very Fine / Fine	26.5 to 30.5	Fairly Soft / Silky	White / Creamy / Discoloured	1" to 4"	2cm to 10cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	Good	None	None	None

Mule Lamb

Mule Lamb Wool is predominantly characterised by a clear, wavy crimp with more lustre and a slightly coarser micron than Medium Lamb Wool.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Mule Lamb No 1	836	Lamb	No	Small wave	Fine	28.0 to 30.0	Fairly Soft / Medium	White	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Mule Lamb No 2	838	Lamb	No	Small wave	Fine	28.5 to 30.5	Fairly Soft / Medium	White / Creamy	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	May be slight	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None

Devon Lamb

Devon Lamb Wool is relatively coarse with a high lanolin content and semi-lustre.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Devon / Dartmoor Lamb	832	Lamb	Yes	Loose wave, well defined	Coarse	Not tested	Medium	White / Creamy / Discoloured	2" to 6"	5cm to 15cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	Semi-lustre	None	None	None

Welsh / Hill Lamb

Welsh / Hill Lamb Wool generally carries some kemp and grey fibres.

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Fine Hill Lamb No 1	802	Lamb	No	Variable	Fine	28.0 to 30.5	Soft	White	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	May be odd kempy fibre	May be odd grey fibre	None
Medium Hill Lamb No 1	803	Lamb	No	Variable	Medium	Not tested	Fairly Harsh	White	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Some kemp	May be odd grey fibre	None
Welsh Lamb No 1	804	Lamb	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Welsh / Hill Lamb No 2	805	Lamb	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Excess kemp	Some grey fibres	None
Welsh / Hill Coloured Kempy Lamb	889	Lamb	No	Variable	Medium / Coarse	Not tested	Harsh	White / Creamy	2" to 5"	5cm to 13cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Excess kemp	Grey is the overriding factor	None

Speciality Lamb

Grade description	Grade No.	Hogg / Ewe / Either	Breed specific	Crimp	Fineness	Typical micron range	Handle	Colour	Length (Inches)	Length (cm)	Uniformity	Strength	Lustre	Kemp	Grey	Cotts
Dorset Horn Lamb	813	Lamb	Yes	Variable	Fine	29.0 to 31.5	Soft	White	1" to 2.5"	2cm to 7cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	None	None	None
Exmoor Horn Lamb	823	Lamb	Yes	Variable	Fine / Medium	Not tested	Medium / Fairly Harsh	White / Creamy	1" to 3"	2cm to 8cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	May be odd kempy fibre	None	None
Cheviot Lamb	833	Lamb	Yes	Variable	Very Fine / Fine	27.5 to 29.0	Medium	White	1" to 3"	2cm to 8cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	None	None	None
Scotch Grey Lamb	891	Lamb	No	Variable	Medium	Not tested	Medium	White / Creamy	3" to 8"	7cm to 20cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	None	Some kemp	Some grey is the overriding factor	None
Lamb Brands	892	Lamb	No	Variable	Variable	Not tested	Variable	Paint content	1" to 6"	2cm to 15cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	Variable	Variable	Variable	None
Black / Jacob Lamb	893	Lamb	No	Variable	Variable	Not tested	Variable	Mixed colour (White / Brown / Black)	1" to 6"	2cm to 15cm	Not applicable	Not applicable	Variable	Variable	Variable	None

British Wool Characteristics

British Wool is described and distinguished based on several key characteristics which are in turn used to allocate each fleece to a grade. These terms are explained in the glossary below.

Colour

“Colour” is used to describe the “Whiteness” of wool or whether it is likely to be of another colour.

When British Wool is sold, the colour of the wool within each auction lot is tested for most grades. The test results are quoted as a numerical value where a score of 0 relates to white wool and a score of 7 or more relates to wool with a yellow tinge.

Term	Description
White	Wool of very good colour. This would typically be consistent with a colour score of 3 or below.
Creamy	Wool of inferior colour. This would typically be consistent with a colour score of 4 or 5.
Discoloured	Wool of poor colour. This would typically be consistent with a colour score of 6 or above.
May be discoloured	There may be fleeces of a poor colour within this grade.
Some grey fibres	The presence of grey fibres throughout the fleece is the overriding factor.
Grey, Black, Light Brown, Brown	Wool is of a colour other than white as stated.

Illustration of **Colour**. Image shows wool of **White** wool (Grade 338 – Medium Ewes No 1), **Creamy** wool (Grade 345 – Medium Ewes No 2) and **Discoloured** wool (Grade 399 – Medium Ewes Discoloured).



Images show wool that would be termed as being **Dark Grey / Black**. (Grade 491 – Mule Dark Grey / Black)



Crimp

Some styles of British Wool have a characteristic crimp, or succession of waves, along the length of the fibre.

We use a number of terms to help describe the crimp as set out below.

Term	Description
Tight wave	Waves are very tight, typically with a wavelength of 3mm to 5mm.
Small wave	Waves are of a small size, typically with a wavelength of 7mm to 10mm.
Medium wave	Waves are of a medium size, typically with a wavelength of 12mm to 16mm.
Loose wave	Waves are quite open, typically with a wavelength in excess of 20mm.
Curl	The wool has more of a curl than a loose wave tending to form ringlets.
Well defined	The crimp is very clear along the length of the fibre and throughout the fleece.
Inconsistent	The crimp is inconsistent along the length of the fibre and throughout the fleece.
Part wild	The tips of the staple have a less well defined crimp and may be matted together.
None	There is no discernible crimp in this style of wool.
Variable	The crimp is not a determining characteristic of this grade.

Illustrations of **Crimp**. Images show wool with a **Tight wave** versus wool with a **Curl**.

Tight wave (Grade 555 – Bluefaced Leicester Cross)

Curl (Grade 503 – Teeswater / Wensleydale)



Grey

“Grey” is used to describe the likelihood of grey fibres being present within a fleece.

- Some grades should be free of grey fibres, some grades have tolerance for an odd grey fibre and some grades will have large amounts of grey.

We use a number of terms to indicate the likelihood of grey fibres being present within each grade.

Term	Description
None	Grey fibres should not be present within the grade.
May be odd grey fibre	A small number of grey fibres may be present within fleeces of this grade.
Some grey fibres	Grey fibres will likely be present within fleeces of this grade.
Some grey is the overriding factor	The presence of grey fibres has overridden other characteristics of the fleece and caused it to be placed in this grade.
Consistently grey	The fleece appears grey in colour rather than being white and containing grey fibres.
Dark Grey, Black, Light Brown, Brown	Wool is of a colour other than white as stated.

Illustration of **Grey**. Image shows wool where **Some grey is the overriding factor** (Grade 390 – Medium Light Grey).



Kemp

“Kemp” is used to describe the likelihood of “dead” or “kempy” fibres being present within a fleece.

- Kempy fibres are generally white, weak and brittle. They will generally be detached from the skin of the sheep and can be mixed through the fleece.
- Some grades should be free of kemp, some grades have tolerance for an odd kempy fibre and some grades will have large amounts of kemp.

We use a number of terms to indicate the likelihood of kemp being present within each grade.

Term	Description
None	Kemp should not be present within the grade.
May be odd kempy fibre	A small number of kempy fibres may be present within fleeces of this grade.
Some kemp	Kempy fibres will likely be present within fleeces of this grade.
Excess kemp	There will be a high level of kemp within fleeces of this grade.
Excess kemp and red kemp	There will be a high level of kemp and red kemp within fleeces of this grade.
May be excess kemp	There may be fleeces with a high level of kemp within fleeces of this grade.
Variable	The presence of kemp is not a determining characteristic of this grade.

Illustrations of **Kemp**. Images show wool containing **Some kemp** versus **Excessive kemp and red kemp**.

Some kemp (Grade 760 – Welsh No 1)

Excessive kemp & red kemp (Grade 789 – Welsh Steel)



Hogg versus Ewe

Within some styles of wool our grades distinguish between the wool from Hogs and the wool from Ewes.

- We use the term **Hogg** to describe wool from a young sheep that has not been previously shorn. Hogs are typically shorn for the first time with around 15 months of wool growth.
- We use the term **Ewe** to describe wool from a sheep that has previously been shorn, either male or female. Ewes are typically shorn annually, hence have around 12 months of wool growth.
- Hogs' wool is typically slightly longer and finer than Ewes' wool and is less prone to kemp and grey.
- Some breeds (Romney in particular) may be shorn twice per year hence may only have six months of growth. This wool is termed as **Second Shear**.

Number 1 versus Number 2

Within some styles of wool our grades separate fleeces based on quality. We use the term Number 1 to describe the best quality fleeces and the term Number 2 to describe fleeces of a lower quality.

- In general terms a No 1 fleece must be of good colour and have a strong, uniform staple.
- A fleece should be classed as a Number 2 if the colour, strength or uniformity is inconsistent with the quality required for the Number 1 grade.

Staple length

The "Staple length" is the typical length of the wool fibres within a fleece.

For most grades we express the staple length as a range quoted in both inches and cm.

We would expect most fleeces within the grade to fall within this range but a small proportion may have a slightly longer or shorter staple.

Fineness & Typical Micron Range

“Fineness” describes the typical fibre diameter within a fleece.

When British Wool is sold the average fibre diameter of the wool within each auction lot is tested for most grades. The test results are quoted in microns, 1 micron being 1/1000th of a millimetre.

- The finest wool is Bluefaced Leicester which can have a micron reading as low as 25 microns.
- Several grades have a micron score in the range of 29 to 31 microns, these would be described as Fine, but most British Wool is in the range of 32 to 35 microns and would be described as Medium.
- Mountain wools tend to be coarser than 35 microns but individual lots are not tested for micron. Wools that are subject to kemp and modulation are not tested as the results of the airflow test do not provide the end user with a representative reading.

The Typical Micron Ranges for each grade that is tested are shown in the tables above. Each lot is sold with an IWTO certified lab test result where micron is tested.

We use a number of terms to relate the fineness of British Wool to core test results as detailed below.

Term	Description
Very Fine	British Wool with a fibre diameter less than 29 μ would typically be described as being Very Fine.
Fine	British Wool with a fibre diameter in the range of 29 μ to 32 μ would typically be described as being Fine.
Medium	Most British Wool is described as Medium, typically consistent with a micron in the range of 32 μ to 35 μ .
Coarse	British Wool with a fibre diameter in the range of 35 μ to 38 μ would typically be described as being Coarse.
Very Coarse	British Wool with a fibre diameter in excess of 38 μ would typically be described as being Very Coarse.
Variable	The fineness is not a determining characteristic of this grade.

Uniformity

“Uniformity” describes the consistency of the staple length within a fleece.

We use a number of terms to describe the uniformity of British Wool as detailed below.

Term	Description
Uniform	Staple length is consistent within a fleece of this grade.
May be irregular	Some variability of staple length is to be expected within this grade.
Irregular	Staple length is likely to be inconsistent within this grade.
Wide variance	Staple length is likely to be very inconsistent within this grade.

Staple strength

The “Staple strength” describes how resistant the fibres are to breakage under tension.

- A weak staple can result from the sheep suffering from a period of stress, for example in harsh winter conditions.

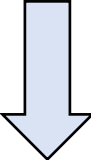
We use a number of terms to describe the strength of British Wool as detailed below.

Term	Description
Very Sound	Very strong fibres, can't be broken by hand.
Sound	Strong fibres, hard to break by hand.
Generally Sound with some weakness	Mostly strong fibres but some weak fibres within fleece.
Fairly Sound	Fibres can be broken by hand with some effort.
Fairly Sound with some weakness	Mostly fairly sound fibres but some weak fibres within fleece.
Weak	Fibres break easily.
Brittle	Fibres break very easily.

Handle

The “Handle” describes the way the fleece feels to the touch.

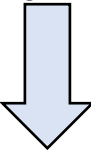
We use a number of terms to describe the handle of British Wool as detailed below. This is a subjective description for British Wool spanning a range from Very Soft to Very Harsh. Certain grades have a “Silky” feel due to the smooth nature of the fibres.

Term	Description
Very Soft	Term used to describe the softest types of British Wool. 
Soft	
Fairly Soft	
Medium	
Fairly Harsh	
Harsh	
Very Harsh	Term used to describe the harshest, roughest feeling types of British Wool.
Silky	Very smooth fibres with a feel similar to Silk.
Variable	The handle is not a determining characteristic of this grade.

Lustre

“Lustre” is used to describe the reflective quality of the wool. High lustre wools have a glossy appearance whereas wools that lack lustre have a matt appearance.

We use a number of terms to describe the lustre of British Wool as detailed below. This is a subjective description for British Wool spanning a range from High to None.

Term	Description
High	Term used to describe the glossiest and most lustrous types of British Wool. 
Good	
Semi-Lustre	
Slight	
Slight sheen	
None	
May be Slight	Wools with a matt appearance and no lustre.
Variable	There may be fleeces with a Slight lustre within this grade.
	The lustre is not a determining characteristic of this grade.

Cottiness

Cottiness is used to describe whether the fibres within a fleece are entangled or matted. A fleece which is entangled is usually described as being “Cotty”.

Most British wool grades should be free from cotty fleeces. Cottiness indicates where cotty fleeces are likely to be present within a grade using the terms below.

- Fleeces that are termed as soft cotts can usually be pulled apart by hand with some effort.
- Fleeces that are termed as hard cotts cannot usually be pulled apart by hand

Term	Description
None	Cotty fleeces should not be present within this grade.
May be cotty	Cotty or part cotty fleeces may be present within this grade.
Soft cotts	The presence of soft cotts has overridden other characteristics of the fleece and caused it to be placed in this grade.
Hard cotts	The presence of hard cotts has overridden other characteristics of the fleece and caused it to be placed in this grade.

Oddments

Daggings and locks are packed and sold separately from fleece wool. The following grades of Locks are produced.

- 2802 Fine / Medium Locks
- 2802X Fine / Medium Locks - Grey
- 2800 Romney Locks
- 2806 Cheviot Locks
- 2803 Mule Locks
- 2803XV Fine / Medium / Mule - Grey / Vegetable Matter
- 2804 Blackface Locks
- 2807 Welsh Hill / Mountain Locks
- 2812 Swaledale Lock
- 2000 Daggings / Brown Ends

Fault wool

British Wool fleeces are classified as “**Fault Wool**” if they have any of the characteristics below. These are sold separately.

Wet wool

Any wet fleeces are removed and sent for scouring before being sold. This wool will be sold scoured and British Wool will provide samples for inspection in the sale room.

Damaged

Any damaged fleeces, for example heavily stained wool, or wool with unduly weak staple and broken fibres are removed. This is typically wool that had previously got wet and then dried out. Any such lots are indicated in the sale with an “F” suffix and the word “Damaged” in the description.

Vegetable matter contamination

Any fleeces containing high levels of plant material (straw, bracken, etc.) are removed. These grades would typically have a “Vegetable Matter” content of 1.0% to 2.5%. Any such lots are indicated in the sale with a “V” suffix and the words “Vegetable Matter” in the description.

Tainted wool

Any fleeces where the fibres have been artificially coloured are removed. Any such lots are indicated in the sale with a “T” suffix and the words “Tainted / Excess Marks” in the description.

Excess marks

Excessively marked lamb wool is sold as “Lamb brands” grade 892.

Contacts

Any queries regarding British Wool's grading system should be addressed to the Wool Sales team.

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