

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
SITE 4a LAND SOUTH OF FORNALLS GREEN LANE, MEOLS**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE 4a,  
LAND SOUTH OF FORNALLS GREEN LANE, MEOLS**

**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
3b	1.0	100

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 October 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 1.0 ha site is situated to the south of Meols. The site abutts residential housing along its north west - south east length, the remainder of the site is surrounded by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wirral Unitary Development 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, and used as a horse paddock.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 233 891) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	753
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1456

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	179
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	100
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	89

### 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 solid geology of the area is comprised of Triassic Upper Mottled Sandstone, overlain by deposits of Glacial Boulder Clay - British Geological Survey Sheet 96, Liverpool, 1:50000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a clay loam texture.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 1.0 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

### 6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	1.0	100	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>