

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 2, LAND NORTH OF DIAMOND FARM, SAUGHALL MASSIE**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 2, LAND NORTH OF DIAMOND FARM, SAUGHALL MASSIE**

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
3a	8.1	100

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 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 8.1 ha site is situated to the south west of Moreton. The land immediately to the north, west and east of the site is in urban use, to the south of the site lies Diamond Farm and agricultural land. The site is bounded by Saughall Road to the west, Arrowe Brook to the east and housing to the north.
- 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 cereals and permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 254890) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	764
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1450

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	181
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	97
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86

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 Keuper red marl overlain by Glacial Boulder Clay and Recent Alluvium - British Geological Survey Sheet 96, Liverpool 1:50 000.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 8.1 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.3.1 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 Classes II and III..

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
3a	8.1	100	100
Totals	8.1	100	100