

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

PARR'S LANE, ORMSKIRK

WEST LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN

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**PARR'S LANE, ORMSKIRK - WEST LANCS LOCAL
PLAN**

Enclosed you will find the ADAS Statutory agricultural land classification report and map for the site at Parr's Lane, Ormskirk.

The findings are broadly similar to the October 1992 survey by ADAS Commercial. However, the ADAS Statutory report refers to the whole of the area to the north of Parr's Lane. The ADAS Commercial report is more selective in the area surveyed - this gives rise (in the main) to the differences in Grade / Subgrade hectarages between the two surveys.

Both surveys agree that the site is climatically limited to being no better than Grade 2. ADAS Statutory found a slightly larger area of Grade 2 in the north east of the site as profiles limited by wetness were not located by the woodland.

There is agreement that the area of Grade 2 is limited by climate and wetness or droughtiness and that the areas of subgrade 3a and 3b are both limited by wetness.

MARTIN WOOD

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
PARR'S LANE, ORMSKIRK
WEST LANCASHIRE LOCAL PLAN**

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
2	10.5	42
3a	4.0	16
3b	0.9	4
Other Land		
Non Agricultural	3.8	15
Agricultural Build	0.1	0.5
Woodland	0.7	3
Open Water	0.1	0.5
Urban	2.5	10
Not Surveyed	2.3	9

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 are climate and soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

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

1.4 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 January 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 24.9 ha site is situated to the north of Parrs Lane, Aughton, on the south east periphery of Ormskirk. The land to the north, east and west of the site is in urban use. The land to the south of the site is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the West Lancashire Local Plan.

- 2.4 At the request of the MAFF Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at 1: 10 000 scale 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 growing horticultural crops (particularly leeks) with the remainder under grass or being fallow.

3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 407 064):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	939
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1382

- 3.2 Climatically the site is limited to being no better than Grade 2.

- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	213
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	75
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	60

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 this land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of Permo - Triassic Bunter Sandstone overlain with recent Shirdley Hill Sands (British Geological Survey, Sheet 84 Wigan 1 : 63 360).
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a sandy loam or a sandy clay loam texture.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 10.5 ha (42 %) of the survey area and covers the majority of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and sand to depth with few stones within the profile. Occasionally clay or heavy clay loam is encountered below 80cm.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are climate, soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a occupies 4.0 ha (16 %) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy clay loam or sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand and sandy clay loam and clay loam and occasionally clay to depth with few stones within the profile. These soils are gleyed within 40cm and placed in Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b occupies 0.9 ha (4 %) of the survey area.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a sandy clay loam texture over a varied subsoil which consists of clay or sandy clay loam. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in to Wetness Class IV.

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

6.4 Other land includes non - agricultural land which occupies 3.8 ha (15 %) of the survey area as overgrown paddocks infested with brambles and small saplings; farm buildings occupying 0.1 ha (1 %) of the survey area; woodland occupying 0.7 ha (3 %) of the survey area; open water occupying 0.1 ha (0.5 %) of the survey area; urban occupying 2.5 ha (10 %) of the survey area as buildings and demolished building foundations and not surveyed occupying 2.3 ha (9 %) of the site and observed from the south to be in non agricultural use.

6.5 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Grade/Subgrade	Area (Ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
2	10.5	42	68
3a	4.0	16	26
3b	0.9	4	6
Other Land			
Non-Agricultural	3.8	15	
Agricultural Build	0.1	0.5	
Woodland	0.7	3	
Open Water	0.1	0.5	
Urban	2.5	10	
Not Surveyed	2.3	9	
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Totals	24.9	100	100
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