

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN
SITE 18 CULCHETH**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN, SITE 18 CULCHETH

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	3.2	10
3a	16.8	53
3b	3.4	11
Other land	8.1	26

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2, Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1996. 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 31.5 ha site is situated to the north east of Culcheth. The land immediately to the north, east and north west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Warrington Local 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 winter cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ660 961) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	894
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1421

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	212
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	85
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	72

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 Bunter Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan I inch. This is overlain with drift deposits of sand and gravel and glacial till.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 3.2 ha (10%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site.**
- 6.1.1** These soils typically have a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying a sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam subsoil and sand or loamy sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying place these soils in Wetness Class I.
- 6.1.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 16.8 ha (53%) of the survey area and is found over most of the site.**
- 6.2.1** These soils have a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying a sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam subsoil and sand or loamy sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying place these soils in Wetness Class II.
- 6.2.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 3.4 ha (11%) of the survey area and is found in the north east of the site.**
- 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 place these soils in Wetness Class IV.
- 6.3.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.4 Other land includes tracks, sports fields and buildings and occupies 8.1 ha (26%) of the survey area and is found in the south of the site.**

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	3.2	10	15
3a	16.8	53	70
3b	3.4	11	15
Other land	8.1	26	
Totals	31.5	100	100