

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
SITE 11, VINEYARD FARM, POULTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
SITE 11, VINEYARD FARM, POULTON**

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	3.0	21.3
3a	9.8	69.5
Other land		
Woodland	0.4	2.8
Non Agricultural	0.6	4.3
Urban	0.3	2.1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 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 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 14.1 ha site is situated to the south of Poulton. The land is bounded by Poulton Road to the west, residential housing to the north and woodland to the east. Land immediately to the south of the site is in agricultural use.
- 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 turnips, horticultural crops and Set Aside.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 336 822) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	794
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1423

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	183
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	92
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	80

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 Upper Mottled Sandstone overlain by Glacial Boulder Clay - British Geological Survey Sheet 96, Liverpool, 1:50 000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which generally have a clay loam texture, with a sandier soil found across the centre of the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 3.0 ha (21.3%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam topsoil texture overlying sandy clay loam, sandy loam and sand at varying depths, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

6.1.2 Within this area isolated Grade 1 profiles were observed that had no limitations.

6.1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 9.8 ha (69.5%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a clay loam topsoil texture over a heavy clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoil and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils into Wetness Classes II and III.

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

6.3 Other land includes woodland - occupying 0.4 ha (2.8%) of the survey area in three isolated pockets in the north and west of the site, and non agricultural land which occupies 0.6 ha (4.3%) of the survey area, found in the north eastern corner of the site and comprising land taken out of production and used as a trackway and shrubby screen. Urban land occupies 0.3 ha (2.15) of the site as residential housing in the central north of the site.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	3.0	21.3	23.4
3a	9.8	69.5	76.6
Other land			
Woodland	0.4	2.8	-
Non Agricultural	0.6	4.3	-
Urban	0.3	2.1	-
Totals	14.1	100	100