

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 2**

**V P Redfern
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 2**

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	3.0	7.9
3b	34.0	90.2
Other land		
Urban	0.2	0.5
Open water	0.5	1.4

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 37.7 ha site is situated to the ^{East} West of Poulton-le-Fylde and is bounded to the south by the A586. The land immediately to the south and west of the site is predominantly in urban use, while to the north and east the land is in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wyre Borough 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 permanent grass.
- 2.6 Whilst surveying a nearby site we were informed by a farmer that building permission had been granted for this site.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 360395) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	929
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1426

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	207
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	80
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	66

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 Mudstones - British Geological Survey Sheet 66, Blackpool 1:50,000. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay, Glacial Sand and Marine and Esturine Alluvium.

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

6 **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Grade 3a - occupies 3.0 ha (7.9%) of the survey area and occupies a strip of land in the east of the site adjacent to Main Dyke.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying clay loam. The subsoils are gleyed and the clay loam forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 34.0 ha (90.2%) of the survey area and occurs over two areas; the flat land in the north of the site and the hill in the south.

6.2.1 In the north the soil has a silty clay loam texture over silty clay. The soils are gleyed and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2.3 In the south of the site the soils consist of sandy clay loam over clay loam. The soils are gleyed and the clay loam forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land on the site includes urban which occupies 0.2 ha (0.5%) of the survey area, and open water which occupies 0.5 ha (1.4%) of the survey area. .

6.4 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	3.0	7.9	8.1
3b	34.0	90.2	91.9
Other land			
Urban	0.2	0.6	
Open water	0.5	1.3	
Totals	37.7	100.0	100.0