

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
SITE 3, LAND NORTH OF GREASBY**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 3, LAND NORTH OF GREASBY**

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
3b	12.2	100

- 1.2 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 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 12.2 ha site is situated to the north of Greasby at Three Lanes End. The site is surrounded by agricultural land and is bounded to the west by Pump Lane and to the north by Greasby Brook.
- 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 permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 251881) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	761
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1445

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	180
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	96
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	85

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 Marls and Waterstones, overlain with deposits of Glacial Boulder Clay - 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 3b - occupies 12.2 ha (100 %) of the survey area.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying a heavy clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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
3b	12.2	100	100
Totals	12.2	100	100