

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN : SITE 6 WINWICK**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE 6 WINWICK

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	28.1	84
3a	3.7	11
Other land	1.6	5

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are soil droughtiness and 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 33.4 ha site is situated to the west of Winwick. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the 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 land in the north of the site was ploughed and the remainder was under grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ596922) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	850
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1441

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	201
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	88
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	76

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 Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of fluvio-glacial gravel.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 28.1 ha (84%) of the survey area.

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

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 3.7 ha (11%) of the survey area and is found in the south east and centre of the site.

6.2.1 In the centre of the site the soil has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand or sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.2.3 In the south east of the site the soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, loamy sand or sand and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Other land occupies 1.6 ha (5%) of the survey area and includes a building, woodland and trackways.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	28.1	84	88
3a	3.7	11	12
Other land	1.6	5	
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Totals	33.4	100	100
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