

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 6, LAND WEST OF HARROCK WOOD, IRBY**

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**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0729
Job No: 060/95
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10909**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 6, LAND WEST OF HARROCK WOOD, IRBY**

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	1.8	41
3b	2.4	54
Other land		
Non agricultural	0.2	5

- 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 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 4.4 ha site is situated to the south of Irby and to the west of Harrock Wood. The land immediately to the south and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, whilst to the north the site is bounded by the Thingwall Road.
- 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 ley grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 260846) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	754
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1378

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	179
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	78

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 geology of the area is comprised of Keuper Marl overlain by 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 3a - occupies 1.8 ha (41%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam and clay. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.4 ha (54%) of the survey area.

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

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

6.3 Other land on the site comprises non-agricultural occupying 0.2 ha (5%) of the survey area and consisting of a car park and an all weather equestrian exercise area.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	1.8	41	43
3b	2.4	54	57
Other land			
Non agricultural	0.2	5	
Totals	4.4	100	100