

**FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN**

**West of Carr Lane  
Kirkham**

**Agricultural Land Classification  
ALC Map and Report  
December 1998**

**Anya J Spalding  
Resource Planning Team  
Northern Region  
FRCA Wolverhampton**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT  
FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN  
West of Carr Lane, Kirkham**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 10.6 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the north east of Kirkham, centred on grid reference SD 429 325. The site is bounded to the north by a railway line and agricultural land, to the east by Carr Lane, to the south by residential development including allotment gardens and a playing field and to the west by agricultural land.
2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in December 1998 by the Resource Planning Team of the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)- Northern region of FRCA.
3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988) .
4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under grass.

**SUMMARY**

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10000 with an average auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at this base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% surveyed area	% site area
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3a	-	-	-
3b	9.2	100	87
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
	-	N/A	-
Agricultural land not surveyed			
Other land	1.4	N/A	13
Total surveyed area	9.2	100	
Total site area	10.6		100

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3b (moderate quality). The key limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

8. Moderate quality land is found throughout the site. The soils commonly comprise a medium clay loam topsoil, overlying a variety of upper subsoil textures including a silty clay loam, a medium clay loam and a sandy clay loam, onto a clay subsoil and passing to peat at depth. Occasionally organic subsoils are present.

## FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

### Climate

9. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

10. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Meteorological Office, 1989).

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SD 429 325
Altitude	m, AOD	13
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1424
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	937
Field Capacity Days	days	209
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	80
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	66
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

11. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

12. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

13. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1.

## Site

14. The site lies at an altitude of 13 metres AOD. The topography of the site is generally level with a slight rise in the north western corner of the site.
15. The three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.
16. These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

## Geology and Soils

17. The solid geology of the area comprises of Breckells Mudstone - British Geological Survey (1982). The drift geology of the site comprises of Freshwater Alluvium with Sand and Gravel and Boulder Clay at the southern boundary of the site - British Geological Survey (1971)
18. The soils that have developed on this geology generally have a clay loam topsoil passing to a clay loam subsoil to depth.

## Agricultural Land Classification

19. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the enclosed ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 1.

### *Subgrade 3b*

20. Land of moderate quality occupies 9.2 hectares (87%) of the site area.
21. The soils commonly comprise a medium clay loam topsoil, overlying a variety of upper subsoil textures including a silty clay loam, medium clay loam, sandy clay loam onto a clay subsoil and passing to peat at depth. Occasionally organic subsoils are present. The depths to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. At the time of the survey surface water was present in hollows throughout the area.
22. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

### *Other land*

23. Other land occupies 1.4 hectares (13%) of the site and includes Carr Farm and a trackway through non-agricultural land in the south east corner of the site.

Resource Planning Team  
Northern Region  
FRCA Wolverhampton

## **SOURCES OF REFERENCE**

British Geological Survey (1982) Sheet 75, Preston, Solid Edition.  
1:50 000 Scale.  
BGS: London.

British Geological Survey (1971) Sheet 75, Preston, Drift Edition.  
1:63 360 Scale.  
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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of  
England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural  
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