AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN -
CULCHETH - Site 11

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

Job No: 62/93
MAFF Ref: EL06/10106

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN - CULCHETH
Site 11

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	23.8	96
Other land		
Non-Agricultural	0.9	1
Urban	0.2	3

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 July 1993. 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 24.9 ha site is situated to the west of Culcheth.

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 site was under grass and cereals. The northern part of the site was covered with rough grass and was not in agricultural use.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	904 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1411 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days	213 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	84 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	70 mm

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 Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 1 inch, which is overlain by deposits of boulder clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 23.8 ha (96%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and clay below 30cms.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is soil wetness. Observations of gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

6.2 Other land includes part of the adjoining linear park and part of Beech House.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	23.8	96	100
Other land			
Non-Agricultural	0.9	3	-
Urban	0.2	1	-
Totals	**24.9**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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