

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN, STANAH**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN, STANAH

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	7.5	97
Other land		
Urban	0.2	3

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in October 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 7.7 ha site is situated to the east of Thornton. The site is bounded to the north west by a drain, Hillylaid Pool and to the south west by Hillylaid Road. Agricultural land lies to the south east.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wyre Borough 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 permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 348 428) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	914
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1430

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	205
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	80
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	66

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 Kirkham Mudstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 66 Blackpool 1:50 000. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary Marine/Estuarine alluvium.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7.5 ha (97%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soils typically have a silty clay loam texture overlying silty clay or occasionally silty clay loam to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2 Other land on the site includes urban, occupying 0.2 ha (3%) of the site and comprising a house and garden.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	7.5	97	100
Other land			
Urban	0.2	3	
Totals	7.7	100	100