

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

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN, HARDHORN

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	2.0	50
3b	2.0	50

- 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 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 4.0 ha site is situated to the east of Hardhorn Village. The land immediately to the north is urban and to the east is in agricultural use. The site is bounded to the west by Hardhorn Road and to the south by Fox's Farm.
- 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 352 377) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	932
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1423

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	208
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	80
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	65

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 Boulder Clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 2.0 ha (50%) of the survey area and is found in the south of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has clay loam texture over clay loam. 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 of this land is soil wetness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.0 ha (50%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically have a clay loam texture overlying 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 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	2.0	50	50
3b	2.0	50	50
Totals	4.0	100	100