

**FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN  
Land off Mill Lane Wrea Green**

**Agricultural Land Classification  
ALC Map and Report  
January 1999**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT  
FYLDE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN  
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**INTRODUCTION**

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 1.5 hectares of land. The land was surveyed in January 1989 as part of a larger area and followed up by a site visit in January 1999. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located due west of Wrea Green and lies to the north of Mill Lane. The western boundary adjoins existing housing and the northern boundary is formed by Wrea Brook. The survey was in connection with the Fylde Borough Local Plan.

2. The site visit was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in January 1999 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. A main sewer with two man hole covers crosses part of the site running north from Mill Lane and east to the Brooklands. Recent tree planting has taken place on part of the site.

**SUMMARY**

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:5000 with an average auger boring density 1 of 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	1.5	1.5	100
4	-	-	-
5			
Agricultural land not surveyed			
Other land			
<b>Total surveyed area</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>100</b>	

Total site area	1.5	100
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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. The soils have either a medium sandy silt loam or medium clay loam texture overlying clay to depth.

## 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 394 31J
Altitude	m, AOD	20
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1417
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	924
Field Capacity Days	days	206
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	80
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	65
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 20 metres AOD. The land falls gently towards Wrea Brook.

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 is comprised of Kirkham Mudstones and is overlain with deposits of Boulder clay - British Geological Survey (1982 and 1971).

18. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a sandy silt loam or clay loam texture overlying clay.

### **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.

#### *Subgrade 3b*

20. Land of moderate quality occupies 1.5 hectares (100%) of the site area and is mapped over the whole site.

21. The soil has either a sandy silt loam texture or clay loam over clay to depth, with common to abundant stones within the profile. The depths to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils within Wetness Class IV.

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

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## **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.  
BGS: London.**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of  
England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural  
land.  
MAFF: London.**

**Meteorological Office (1989) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.  
Meteorological Office: Bracknell.**