

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 4**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 4**

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	2.4	20.9
3b	9.0	78.3
Other land		
Urban	0.1	0.8

- 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 May 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 11.5 ha site is situated to the west of Garstang and is bounded to the west by the A6 and the south by the River Wyre.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection 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 486446) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	996
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1413

3.2 The combination of average annual rainfall and accumulated temperature limit the site to Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	224
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	72
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	57

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 geology of the area is comprised of Glacial Till and Alluvium - British Geological Survey Sheet 67 Garstang 1:50,000.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 2.4 ha (20.9%) of the survey area and is found alongside the River Wyre.

6.1.1 These soils have a silty clay loam texture overlying silty clay loam. The soils are gleyed but there is no slowly permeable layer and the soils are placed 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 9.0 ha (78.3%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam and clay. The soils are gleyed and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes urban which occupies 0.1 ha (0.8%) of the survey area and comprises a garden in the north west of the site.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	2.4	20.9	21
3b	9.0	78.3	79
Other land			
Urban	0.1	0.8	
Totals	11.5	100.0	100.0