

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
APPLETON SOUTH  
WARRINGTON  
CHESHIRE**

I Henderson  
Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
LEEDS

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR APPLETON SOUTH, WARRINGTON

## 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	Percentage of Site
2	12.9	29.4%
3a	11.0	25.0%
3b	17.0	38.6%
Other land		
Urban	1.9	4.3%
Agricultural Buildings	1.2	2.7%

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 are soil wetness or soil droughtiness.

1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.

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

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 1994. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales. Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land." (MAFF, 1988).

2.2 The 44 ha site is situated on the southern outskirts of Warrington and lies to the west of the village of Appleton Thorn.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Warrington Local Plan.

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10,000 with a minimum auger boring density of one 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 survey most of the site was under either grass or cereal stubble.

### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 627 833):

Average Annual Rainfall	802 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C(January to June)	1376 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for land classification purposes include:

Field Capacity Days	190
Moisture Deficit (Wheat)	88 mm
Moisture Deficit (Potatoes)	75 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 on this site.

### 5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology underlying the site is Lower Keuper Marl and this is overlain by drift deposits of sand and gravel (in the north) and boulder clay (in the centre and south).

5.2 The underlying drift is closely reflected by the soil types, with sandy loam topsoils overlying sandy loam, sandy clay loam or medium sand subsoils in the north of the site (where clay occurs at depth in places), and medium clay loam topsoils overlying medium clay loam, sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils elsewhere.

### 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 land occupies 12.9 ha (29.4%) of this site and occurs in the north of the site.

6.1.1 The soils generally have a medium sandy loam topsoil texture, with subsoil horizons

of medium sandy loam, sandy clay loam or medium sand. Clay occurs at depth in places and the soils fall into Wetness Class I or Wetness Class II.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are slight soil droughtiness or, in places, slight soil wetness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a land covers 11.0 (25%) in two areas in the south of the site.

6.2.1 Typically medium clay loam topsoils overlie medium clay loam, sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam upper subsoils and heavy clay loam or clay lower subsoils. Both topsoils and subsoils are very slightly stony and the soils fall in Wetness Class II or Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b land covers 17 ha (38.6%) of the site and occurs in two areas in the centre and south of the site.

6.3.1 Generally medium clay loam topsoils overlie sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay subsoils. These soils are very slightly stony and fall in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.4 Other land on this site includes Agricultural Buildings (covering 1.2ha) and Urban land (consisting of houses and roads and covering 1.9 ha).

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural land
2	12.9	29.4%	31.5%
3a	11.0	25.0%	26.9%
3b	17.0	38.6%	41.6%
Other land			
Urban	1.9	4.3%	-
Agricultural Buildings	1.2	2.7%	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>