

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 938 446) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	870
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1231

3.2 There is an overall climatic limitation on the site of Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	215
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	68
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	48

### 4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 The site lies within the flood plain of the River Blythe (information supplied by the NRA). No detailed information about duration and frequency is available. Flooding has not further downgraded the land adjacent to the river.

4.3 The microrelief of land in the southern part of the site has been considered in the overall grading of this area.

4.4 Microrelief has been considered as a limitation to the agricultural use of part of the site.

### 5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Sandstone and Conglomerate - British Geological Survey Sheet 123 Stoke-on-Trent (Macclesfield) 1 Inch.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Sub-grade 3a - occupies 2.2ha (44%) of the survey area and is found in the west of the site to the east of the A520.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a medium clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam or clay to depth, with few stones within the profile. Observations of gleying, place these soils in Wetness Class II. No slowly permeable layer was found.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.0ha (40%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.

6.2.1 The soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam, with some occurrences of peaty loam and sand. Observations of gleying the depth to the slowly permeable layer and depth to the water table 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 Grade 4 - occupies 0.8ha (16%) of the survey area and is found in the south of the site between the urban area and the River Blythe.

6.3.1 The soil typically has either a medium clay loam or medium sandy loam texture overlying peaty loams and peat to depth. The presence of a high water table places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

## 6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	2.2	44	44
3b	2.0	40	40
4	0.8	16	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>