

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 5**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WYRE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN
SITE 5**

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	3.7	31.9
3b	7.6	65.5
Other land non-agricultural	0.3	2.6

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 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 11.6 ha site is situated to the east of Poulton-Le-Fyde. The land immediately to the south and east of the site is predominately in agricultural use. The land to the north and west is urban..
- 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.
- 2.6 The site shows some signs of disturbance due to the infilling of ditches formerly draining a number of small fields on the site. In addition a large waste water pipe was reported to have been laid along the southern boundary some years ago.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 354387) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	928
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1426

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	207
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	80
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	66

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 by deposits of Marine and Estuarine alluvium and 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 3.7 ha (31.9%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam with clay at depth. The subsoils are gleyed but there is no slowly permeable layer and the soils fall into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7.6 ha (65.5%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 Along the northern side of the site the soils consist of clay loam over peat. The topsoils are gleyed and have been placed in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2.3 Over the remainder of the site the soils consist of clay loam over clay loam and clay. The subsoils are gleyed and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer. The soils fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes non-agricultural which occupies 0.3 ha (2.6%) of the survey area and comprises a playing field.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	3.7	31.9	32.7
3b	7.6	65.5	67.3
Other Land non-agricultural	0.3	2.6	
Totals	11.6	100.0	100.0