

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN -
CROFT - Site 9**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No: 60/93
MAFF Ref: EL06/10106**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN - CROFT
Site 9**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Subgrade	ha	% of site
3a	2.0	34
3b	3.8	66

- 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 July 1993. 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 5.8 ha site is situated to the east of Croft.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Local Plan for Warrington.
- 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 grass. The southern part of the site at present is not under agricultural use; the land, covered with rough grass, trees and scrub, is crossed by many tracks.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	880 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1423 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days	208 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	86 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	73 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.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Upper Mottled Sandstone which is overlain by deposits of clay - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 1 inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a medium clay loam texture overlying clay in the southern part of the site and sands and clays in the northern part.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - covers 2.0 ha (34%) and is found in the northern part.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam, sandy loam and clay texture, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - covers 3.8 ha (66%) and is found in the southern part of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay below 35 cms. Observations of gleying and the slowly permeable layer 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 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	2.0	34
3b	3.8	66
Totals	5.8	100.0

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