

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

**WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN
OUGHTRINGTON - SITE 16**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No : 064/93
MAFF Ref : EL06/10106**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR OUGHTRINGTON, WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN

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
2	14.1	22.0
3a	36.5	57.0
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	1.1	1.7
Non Agricultural	5.8	9.1
Woodland	0.4	0.6
Urban	6.1	9.6

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.

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

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 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 64.0 ha site is situated to the east of Lymm. The land is predominantly in agricultural use.

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

Average Annual Rainfall	835 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1432 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	197 days
Moisture deficit wheat	90 mm
Moisture deficit potatoes	79 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 upper mottled sandstone and keuper sandstone - British Geological Survey, sheet 98 1 inch. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary Boulder clay, aeolian Shirdley Hill Sand and fluvio-glacial sands and gravels.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture over sand or sandstone to depth or sandy loam and clay loam textures over clay to depth.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 14.1 ha (22.0%) of the survey area and is found north of Sutch Lane. This land also includes some isolated borings of deeper sandy loam, Grade 1 soils.

6.1.1 The Grade 2 soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand and/or sandstone to depth.

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

6.2 Sub-grade 3a occupies 36.5 ha (57.0%) of the survey area and is found over the remaining agricultural land. This land also includes isolated borings of Grade 2 land limited both by soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

6.2.1 The sub-grade 3a soils typically have sandy loam and clay loam textures overlying clay to depth.

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

6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 1.1 ha (1.7%) of the survey area. Non agricultural land which occupies 5.8 ha (9.1%) of the survey area. Woodland covering 0.4 ha (0.6%) of the land and urban-covering 6.1 ha (9.6%) of the site. This includes the Bridgewater Canal which bisects the site.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in hectares	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
2	14.1	22.0	27.9
3a	36.5	54.0	72.1
Other land			
Agricultural buildings	1.1	1.7	
Non-agricultural	5.8	9.1	
Woodland	0.4	0.6	
Urban	6.1	9.6	
Totals	64.0	100.0	100.0

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December 1993