AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN
PENKETH - SITE 1

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

Job No: 053/93
MAFF Ref: EL06/10106

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR PENKETH, 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	7.6	51.7
3a	6.7	45.6
urban	0.4	2.7

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

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

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 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 14.7 ha site is situated south west of Warrington in Penketh, north of the River Mersey. The site is bounded to the south and east by a railway line, to the south by Station Road, and to the west by urban development. Land immediately to the north of the site is not currently developed.

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 : 10 000 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 survey the site had largely been ploughed, following a potato crop.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	807 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1447 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	192 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	92 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	80 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 and Bunter Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey, sheet 97, Runcorn, 1 inch. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary Blown sand and aluminium.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which typically have sandy loam or clay loam textures over clay, loamy sand or sand, or sandstone.

6. AGRIULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 7.6 ha (51.7%) of the survey area and is found over the eastern half of the site.

6.1.1 Soils are typically sandy loam or silt loam textures over sand or sandstone to depth.

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

6.1.3 Soils with clay loam topsoil textures overlie clay and sandstone.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 6.7 ha (45.6%) of the survey area and is found over the western half of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have sandy loam or clay loam topsoil textures over clay to depth.

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

6.3 Other land includes a strip of urban routeway in the south eastern corner of the site covering 0.4 ha (2.7%) of the survey area.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in hectares	% of survey area	% of Agricultural Land
2	7.6	51.7	53.1
3a	6.7	45.6	46.9
Other land			
Urban	0.4	2.7	
Totals	14.7	100.0	100.0

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