AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 9, RIVERBANK ROAD, HESWALL

S Hunter
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0729
Job No: 061/95
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10909

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SITE 9, RIVERBANK ROAD, HESWALL

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	2.1	100

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

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in October 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 2.1 ha site is situated to the south west of Heswall and is bisected by Riverbank Road and housing along Riverbank Road. The land immediately adjacent to the site (both north and south) is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wirral Unitary Development 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 cereal stubble and horticultural use.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 264 806) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	742
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1448

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	176
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	96
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	85

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 Bunter Upper Mottled Sandstone overlain by Glacial Boulder Clay - British Geological Survey Sheet 96, Liverpool, 1:50 000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy clay loam or sandy loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 2.1 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sandy clay loam to depth or sandy clay loam, sandy loam and sand to depth, with a few stones within the profile. Observations of gleying place these soils into Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	2.1	100	100
Totals	**2.1**	**100**	**100**