



**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
SITE 4, LAND WEST OF BIRCH ROAD, MEOLS**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
SITE 4, LAND WEST OF BIRCH ROAD, MEOLS**

**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	7.0	100

- 1.2 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 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 7.0 ha site is situated to the south of Meols. The land immediately to the south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, and the site is bounded to the north west, north and north east by a railway line, Birkenhead Road and residential housing.
- 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 had not been used for some time, a dense undergrowth and shrubby tree cover had emerged, which in many cases proved difficult to access in order to auger at 100m intervals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (Grid Ref) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	754
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1456

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	179
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	100
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	89

### 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 Triassic 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 generally have a sandy texture.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 7.0 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 It was apparent when conducting the survey that topsoil from some areas of the site had been removed and some isolated disturbance to the soils around the area north of Fornall Bridge near the Birkenhead Road was found.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a loamy sand topsoil texture, overlying sand and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class III.

### 6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

<b>Grade/Sub-grade</b>	<b>Area in Hectares</b>	<b>% of Survey Area</b>	<b>% of Agricultural Land</b>
3a	7.0	100	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>