

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 12, LAND EAST OF RABY HALL, RABY**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WIRRAL UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 12, LAND EAST OF RABY HALL, RABY**

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	3.6	100

- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 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 3.6 ha site is situated to the south west of Raby Mere. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly woodland. Land to the east of the site is in urban use and to the south the site is bounded by Raby Hall Road.
- 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 grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 333807) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	785
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1426

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	180
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	93
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	81

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 generally have a sandy texture overlying sandstone.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 3.6 ha (100%) of the survey area

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sand and sandstone with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.2 Towards the northern end of the site, isolated profiles were found of deeper sandy clay loam soils. However this area was too small to be mapped at the 1:10 000 scale.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	3.6	100	100
Totals	3.6	100	100