AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN
WINWICK
SITE 6

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton

Job No: 057/93
MAFF REF: EL06/10106

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WARRINGTON LOCAL PLAN WINWICK SITE 6

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey of this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade	Area (hectare)	% of site
3a	5.3	79
3b	1.4	21

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is for wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 1993. An ALC 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 6.7 ha site is situated to the north of Winwick Village. It is bounded to the south by a covered reservoir and a playing field, to the west by Golborne Road and to the east by Waterworks Lane. The land is bounded to the north by agricultural land.

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

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 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 survey the land was under grass and a silage crop had been taken this year.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	879 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1413 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for agricultural land classification are:

Field Capacity Days	207 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	85 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	71 mm

4 SITE

4.1 When classifying land three site factors are taken into consideration:

Gradient, microrelief and flooding.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area consists of Bunter Pebble Beds overlain by Boulder Clay and Bunter Pebble Beds, (British Geological Survey Sheet 97, 1 Inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consists predominantly of clay loam textured topsoils over clay, with a small area of clay loam over sandy loam and sand.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a occupies 5.3 ha (79.0%) of the survey area and covers the northern part of the site.

6.1.1 The predominant soils in this subgrade have a clay loam texture overlying clay with gleying present in the subsoil.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 1.4 ha (21.0%) of the survey area and occurs in the south west of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay. The clay is gleyed and forms a slowly permeable layer.

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

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area (hectare)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural land
3a	5.3	79.0	79.0
3b	1.4	21.0	21.0
Total	**6.7**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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