

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ST HELENS UDP
ORMSKIRK ROAD (SITE 7)**

**R D Metcalfe
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0689
Job No: 136/94
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10752**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
ST HELENS UDP
ORMSKIRK ROAD (SITE 7)**

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	0.8	100

- 1.2 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 February 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 0.8 ha site is situated to the West of Rainford off the Ormskirk Road. The northern boundary is formed by Dairy Farm Road the eastern one by housing.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the St. Helens UDP.
- 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 (SD 474 016) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	909
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1402

- 3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	214
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	78
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	63

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 Middle Coal Measures - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan 1:63 360. This is overlain with deposits of sand.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy texture.

6 **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

- 6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 0.8 ha (100%) of the survey area.
 - 6.1.1 The soil has loamy sand texture over sand at about 36 cms, 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 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	0.8	100
<hr/>		
Totals	0.8	100
<hr/> <hr/>		