AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 45.01

MJW WOOD
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 45.01

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	9.9	28
3a	16.2	46
3b	2.8	8
4	4.0	12
Other land		
Woodland	1.8	5
Urban	0.5	1

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

1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil droughtiness.

1.5 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 are soil depth.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 35.2 ha site is situated to the south west of Kirby. The land surrounding the site is predominantly in urban use and is bounded to the east by the M57 motorway, to the south by the A580, the north by the A506 and the west by Knowsley Brook. The land to the west has been used for infill of domestic waste.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Knowsley 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 (SJ 405 974) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	840
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1436

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	198
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	87
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	74

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 Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan 1:63 360. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary alluvium and Shirdley Hill Sand.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 9.9 ha (28%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Occasionally clay may be present in the lower subsoil.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 16.2 ha (46%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the south of the motorway.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy loam and/or loamy sand texture over sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a. In places clay may be present in the lower subsoil. Observations of gleying and slowly permeable characteristics in this clay place these profiles in Wetness Class III.

6.2.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil wetness or soil droughtiness.

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.8 ha (8%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site. This land has been disturbed due to the deposition of domestic waste.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam or sandy loam texture overlying infill material at a depth of 30 to 40 cm. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3b.

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

6.4 Grade 4 - occupies 4.0 ha (12%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site. It has been disturbed in the past.

6.4.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam or a clay loam texture over rubble. Topsoils have a highly variable content of stone, bricks and concrete.

6.4.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil depth.

6.5 Other land includes woodland - occupying 68 ha (5%) of the survey area in the south east and urban - covering 0.5 ha (1%) of the survey area as the disused Back Gillmoss Lane.

6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	9.9	28	30
3a	16.2	46	49
3b	2.8	8	9
4	4.0	12	12
Other land			
Woodland	1.8	5	-
Urban	0.5	1	-
Totals	**35.2**	**100**	**100**