

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ST HELENS UDP  
MILLFIELD LANE (SITE 11)**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
ST HELENS UDP  
MILLFIELD LANE (SITE 11)**

**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
3b	7.7	90
Other lane		
Agricultural buildings	0.3	3
Urban	0.6	7

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

**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 8.6 ha site is situated to the north of Haydock and the A580(T) road. The land immediately to the north, is predominantly in agricultural use and the southern boundary adjoins industrial buildings.
- 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 cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 559981) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	926
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1374

3.2 There is an overall climatic limitation of Grade 2 on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	216
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	75
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	59

### 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 Boulder Clay.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7.7 ha (90%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth between 34 and 55 cms. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.3 ha (3%) of the survey area and are found at the north eastern corner of the site; urban - covering 0.6 ha (7%) of the survey area in the south east corner of the site.

### 6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	7.7	90	100
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.3	3	
Urban	0.6	7	
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<b>Totals</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
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