

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 51.03**

**M J W WOOD
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0011
Job No: 011/95
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10763**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 51.03

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	8.0	20
3b	24.0	61
Other land		
Woodland	5.5	14
Urban	2.0	5

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are soil wetness and soil depth.
- 1.4 The soils on this site are varied in texture and depth, especially in areas of disturbance ie near the M62 Motorway Junction.

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 39.5 ha site is situated to the east of Junction 6 on the M62 Motorway. The land immediately to the north east and south is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the north, west and east of the site is in urban use as housing and a colliery spoil tip.
- 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 cereals and grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 470895) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	863
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1423

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	202
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	85
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	71

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 Carboniferous Coal Measures - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1:63360. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 8.0 ha (20%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north and east of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over sandy clay loam and/or loamy sand over clay or sandstone to depth, with few to abundant stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer (if present) place these soils in to Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 24.0 ha (61%) of the survey area and is found in places throughout the site. In the vicinity of the slip roads to the M62 Motorway, land has been disturbed. The soils in this unit are of two types.

6.2.1 Firstly there are the soils which typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and/or clay over brick. In the area around The Old Wood soil profiles are truncated by the presence of sandstone, rather than brick. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. Where soils have been disturbed or overlie sandstone, soil depth acts as a limitation.

6.2.2 Secondly there are the soils which typically have a clay loam texture over sandy clay loam and clay to depth with few stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes woodland - occupying 5.5 ha (14%) of the survey area mainly at The Old Wood and urban - covering 2.0 ha (5%) of the survey area at as the dismantled railway and part of the Conton Colliery spoil tip.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	8.0	20	25
3b	24.0	61	75
Other land			
Woodland	5.5	14	-
Urban	2.0	5	-
<hr/>			
Totals	39.5	100	100
<hr/> <hr/>			