

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
NEW CUT HOUSE FARM, KNOWSLEY**

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

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/597  
Job Number: 5/94  
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10342**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
NEW CUT HOUSE FARM, KNOWSLEY**

**1. SUMMARY**

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

<b>Grade/Subgrade</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>% of Site</b>
2	38.3	79
3a	5.6	11
Other Land		
Agricultural Buildings	0.4	} 10
Woodland	4.1	}

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land in Grade 2 include acidic subsoils, soil droughtiness and soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1994. 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 48.4ha site is situated to the north of A580 (T) road and east of Kirkby. The land immediately to the west of the site is in agricultural use, southern and eastern boundaries are formed by tracks and the northern boundary by Simonswood and adjoining farmland.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad hoc development proposal for waste disposal facilities.
- 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 fallow.

### 3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 453979):
- |  |      |
|--|------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm)                               | 916  |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C) | 1393 |
- 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 Lower Coal Measure and Bunter Sandstone deposits - British Geological Survey sheet 97 Wigan 1". This is overlain by peat and Shirdley Hill sand deposits. The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy texture in the southern part of the site and peat over much of the northern part.

### 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 occupies 38.3ha (79%) of the site.
- 6.1.1 In the northern part of the site soils are of a sandy peat texture overlying acidic semi-fibrous peat.
- 6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land are acidic subsoils.
- 6.1.3 To the south of the track crossing the site the soils have a loamy sand texture overlying sand and occasionally heavy clay loam and clay subsoils.
- 6.1.4 The main limitations present include soil wetness where heavier subsoils are present and soil droughtiness where sandy subsoils are found.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a covers 5.6ha (11%) of the site and is found in the western and southern parts of the site.

- 6.2.1 The soils typically have a loamy medium sand topsoil overlying sand and occasionally clay below 55cm.
- 6.2.2 The main limitations to the main agricultural use of the land includes soil droughtiness where sand textured subsoils are present or soil wetness where clay textured subsoils are found.
- 6.3 Other land - includes an area of trees and scrub at the northern end of the site and agricultural buildings at New Cut House Farm.
- 6.4 Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/Subgrade	Area in ha	% of Survey Area	% Agricultural Land
2	38.3	79	87
3a	5.6	11	13
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.4	} 10	
Woodland	4.1		

Resource Planning Team  
 ADAS Statutory Group  
 Wolverhampton

April 1994