AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

FACTORY LANE
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

Job No: 36/93
MAFF Ref: EL21/10041

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR FACTORY LANE, SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN

1 SUMMARY

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

Subgrade 3b	35.4 ha	(81.9% of the site)
Grade 4	5.9 ha	(13.7% of the site)
Other land		
Non-agricultural	1.5 ha	(3.5% of the site)
Agricultural buildings	0.3 ha	(0.7% of the site)
Open water	0.1 ha	(0.2% of the site)

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

1.3 The limitation to the agricultural use of the land in Grade 4 is gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August 1993. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken according to the guidelines laid down in 'Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land' (MAFF 1988).

2.2 The 43.2 hectare site lies south of Preston and has a railway line and urban land use along its western and southern boundaries, a gas works to the east and a disused railway line along its north eastern edge. Of the 43.2 hectares of land, 41.3 ha was in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the South Ribble Local Plan.

2.4 At LUPU's request this was a detailed grid survey at a scale of 1:10000, with a minimum auger boring density of one 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 survey the site was wholly under grass.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for this site.

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR)	963 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (ATO)	1408 Day °C

3.2 Climatic factors do not limit this site.

3.3 Other climatic parameters used in the classification of land include

Field Capacity Days (FCD)	224 days
Moisture Deficit (Wheat)	76 mm
Moisture Deficit (Potatoes)	61 mm

4. SITE

4.1 The assessment of site factors is primarily concerned with the way in which topography influences the use of agricultural machinery. These include, gradient, micro-relief and flooding.

4.2 Micro-relief and flooding do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land. Gradient limits areas of land west of the stream in the north of the site and east of the stream in the centre of the site to Grade 4.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is mapped as Keuper Marl (British Geological Survey, sheet 75 - Preston, 1:50000) which is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which are typically medium clay loam textures over heavy clay loam subsoils and clay to depth.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b land occupies 35.4 ha (81.9%) of the site.

6.1.1 The soils typically have a medium clay loam topsoil over a heavy clay loam subsoil overlying clay to depth. The soils are gleyed within 40 cm, have a slowly permeable layer (SPL) below 30-60 cm, and fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2 Grade 4 land occupies 5.9 ha (13.7%) of the site.

6.2.1 The soils typically have a clay loam texture over clay with gleying present within 40 cm and an SPL within 60 cm.

6.2.2 The gradient is in excess of 11°.

6.2.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient.

6.3 Other land includes farm buildings occupying 0.3 ha (0.7% of the survey area), non-agricultural land occupying 1.5 ha (3.5% of the site), which includes trackways and a railway embankment and open water covering 0.1 ha (0.2% of the site).

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	35.4	81.9	85.7
4	5.9	13.7	14.3
Other land			
Non-agricultural	1.5	3.5	
Agricultural buildings	0.3	0.7	
Open water	0.1	0.2	
Total	43.2	100.0	
Total agricultural area	41.3		100.0

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