

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN, KINGSFOLD**

**V P Redfern  
Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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# **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN, KINGSFOLD**

## **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	81.8	82.5
Other land		
Non-agricultural	2.5	2.5
Agricultural Buildings	0.5	0.5
Urban	14.3	14.5

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 December 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 99.1 ha site is situated to the south of Kingsfold. The land immediately to the west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.

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

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 permanent grass and cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 533361) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	966
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1404

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	224
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	76
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	60

### 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 Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 75 Preston (Garstang) 1 inch. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder Clay.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 81.8 ha (82.5%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a silty clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay to depth. 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 0.5 ha (0.5%) of the survey area. Urban occupies 14.3 ha (14.5%) of the survey area and comprises residential housing and gardens, and roadways through the site.

### 6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	81.8	82.5	100.0
Other land			
Non-agricultural	2.5	2.5	
Agricultural Buildings	0.5	0.5	
Urban	14.3	14.5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>99.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>