

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN, WALTON-LE-DALE**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN, WALTON-LE-DALE

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
2	5.0	100

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in October 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 5.0 ha site is situated to the north of Walton-Le-Dale. The site is bounded to the north by the A6 and to the south by the River Darwen. To the east there is an area of glasshouses.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the South Ribble 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 in fallow prior to sowing winter cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD 553 280) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	940
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1428

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	223
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	78
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	64

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 Sherwood Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 75 Preston 1:50 000. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary Estuarine alluvium.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 5.0 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a silty clay loam texture overlying silty clay loam to depth. The soils are not gleyed and do not have a slowly permeable layer and are placed in Wetness Class I. The combination of topsoil texture and field capacity days place these soils in Grade 2.

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

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	5	100	100
Totals	5	100	100