

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 15.01**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 15.01

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	2.4	56
Other land		
Urban	1.9	44

- 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 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 4.3 ha site is situated to the south of the A562 near Halewood, Liverpool. The land immediately to the north east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, the land immediately to the south and west of the site is in urban use.
- 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 grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 454 846) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	814
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1433

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	192
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	89
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	77

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 Permo Triassic Sandstone - 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 have a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.4 ha (56%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.**
 - 6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam or a sandy loam texture overlying sandy 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 urban - covering 1.9 ha (44%) of the survey area as a new housing estate.**

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	2.4	56	100
Other land			
Urban	1.9	44	-
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Totals	4.3	100	100
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