

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**BRINDLE ROAD  
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN**

L

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No: 37/93  
MAFF Ref: EL21/10041**

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BRINDLE ROAD, 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:-

Sub-grade 3b	26.9 ha	(51.6% of the site)
Non-agricultural	2.3 ha	(4.4% of the site)
Agricultural buildings	1.2 ha	(2.3% of the site)
Open water	0.06 ha	(0.1% of the site)
Urban	0.4 ha	(0.8% of the site)
Not surveyed	21.3 ha	(40.8% of the site)

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

## 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 52.2 hectare site lies west of and is bounded by the M61 motorway south of Junction 30. The site is bounded to the north by the M6 motorway, and to the south and west by urban development. Of the 52.2 hectares of land, 21.3 ha was not surveyed due to problems with access and of the remainder, 26.9 ha is 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 is 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)	973 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (ATO)	1366 Day °C

3.2 Climatic factors limit the site to Grade 2.

3.3 Other climatic parameters used in the classification of land quality include

Field Capacity Days (FCD)	221
Moisture Deficit (Wheat)	77
Moisture Deficit (Potatoes)	62

#### 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 Gradient, micro-relief and flooding 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 mapped as Keuper Marl (British Geological Survey, sheet 75 - Preston, 1:50000). This is overlain by deposits of glacial till.

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

#### 6. **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Grade 3b land occupies 26.9 hectares (51.6%) of the survey area and comprises all the surveyed agricultural land.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium clay loam texture over a heavy clay loam and clay to depth. The soils are gleyed within 40 cm, have a slowly permeable layer around 45 cm, and fall into Wetness Classes III and IV.

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

6.2 Other land includes 2.3 ha (4.4%) of non-agricultural land, 1.2 ha (2.3%), agricultural buildings occupying 1.2 ha (2.3%), 0.06 ha (0.1%) of open water and 0.4 ha (0.8%) of urban land. 21.3 ha (40.8% of the site) were not surveyed across the south and centre of the site.

### 6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	26.9	51.6	100.0
Non-agricultural	2.3	4.4	
Agricultural buildings	1.2	2.3	
Open water	0.06	0.1	
Urban	0.4	0.8	
Non-surveyed	21.3	40.8	
<b>Total survey area</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>Total agricultural area</b>	<b>26.9</b>		<b>100.0</b>

**Resource Planning Team**  
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