

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**WEST CROSTON ROAD  
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN**

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No: 34/93  
MAFF Ref: EL21/10041**

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WEST CROSTON 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:-

Subgrade 3a	3.11 ha	(7.8% of the site)
Subgrade 3b	30.59 ha	(76.4% of the site)
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	2.3 ha	(5.7% of the site)
Non-agricultural	1.84 ha	(4.6% of the site)
Urban	0.97 ha	(2.4% of the site)
Not surveyed	1.24 ha	(3.1% of the site)

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

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August and October 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 site comprises 40.05 ha of land, of which 1.24 ha was not surveyed and of the remainder 33.7 ha was in agricultural use.

2.3 The 40.05 hectare site lies south of Preston, and is bounded to the west by the B5253, to the east by housing and Croston Road, and to the north and south by Moss Lane and Hugh Lane respectively.

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

2.5 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.

2.6 At the time of survey the site was under grass and cereals.

### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for this site.

Average Annual Rainfall (AAR)	946 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (ATO)	1412 Day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on this site.

3.3 Other climatic parameters used in the classification of land 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 (solid) Preston, 1:50000) which is overlain by deposits of glacial till.

5.2 The soils are typically organic clay loam topsoil textures over clay.

### 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a occupies 3.11 ha (7.8%) of the survey area and is located over a small area in the south of the site. Some other isolated areas of Subgrade 3a land were also found within the Subgrade 3b land, but these were too small to include at this map scale.

6.1.1 The soils are typically organic medium clay loam topsoils over organic heavy clay loam subsoils and clay to depth. The soils are gleyed below 40 cm and with a slowly permeable layer (SPL) below 40 cm, they fall into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 30.59 ha (76.4%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soils typically have organic medium clay loam topsoil textures over organic heavy clay loam subsoils and clay to depth. The soils are gleyed above 40 cm, have an SPL within 60 cm and fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

### 6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	3.11	7.8	9.2
3b	30.59	76.4	90.8
Other land			
Non-agricultural	1.84	4.6	
Agricultural buildings	2.30	5.7	
Urban	0.97	2.4	
Non-surveyed	1.24	3.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.05</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>Total agricultural area</b>	<b>33.70</b>		<b>100.0</b>

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