

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
LODGE LANE, SITE 13**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
LODGE LANE, SITE 13**

**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.
3a	4.1	100

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is soil wetness.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 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 4.1 ha site is situated to the south of Ashton-in-Makerfield. It is bounded to the west by the M6 and to the east by Lodge Lane. Land to the north is in urban use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the St Helens Unitary Development 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 (SJ 577981):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	917
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1393

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	215
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	78
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	63

### 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 Bunter Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay.

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

### 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a occupies 4.1 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam with clay or sand at depth. The subsoils are gleyed placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	4.1	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>