

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 3 - LAND AT MICKLEHEAD ROUNDABOUT**

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WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0689
Job No: 165/94
MAFF Ref: 25/10752**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SITE 3 - LAND AT MICKLEHEAD ROUNDABOUT**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades were present:

| Grade/Subgrade | ha | % of site |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------|
| Non-Agricultural land | 1.7 | 89 |
| Woodland | 0.2 | 11 |

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April 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 1.9 ha site is situated to the south of St Helens directly north of junction 7 of the M62 the northern end of the site is bounded by a railway line. The land immediately to the west of the site is under agricultural use. The eastern boundary of the site is formed by a dual carriageway.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the St Helens Unitary Development Plan.
- 2.4 At the time of the survey the site was under grass, weeds and woodland.

3 CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 507 911) :

| | |
|--|------|
| Average Annual Rainfall (mm) | 868 |
| Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C) | 1392 |

- 3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Field Capacity Days (days) | 203 |
| Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm) | 82 |
| Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm) | 67 |

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 Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures and Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Pleistocene and recent boulder clay.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Woodland - occupies 0.2 ha (11%) of the survey area and is found in the south of the site.
- 6.2 Non Agricultural land - occupies 1.7 ha (89%) of the survey area and is found over the remainder of the site extending north to the railway line.
- 6.2.1 This parcel of land appears to have been isolated from other agricultural land by the construction of a new dual carriageway, which forms the eastern boundary of the site. The area to the west of the site is wooded. Large earth mounds occupy the southern half of the site and the adjacent woodland appears to be encroaching over this area also. The northern most field supports grass and weeds. The surface of the fields appears to be covered in shale.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

| Grade/Sub-grade | Area in Hectares | % of Survey Area |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Non-Agricultural | 1.7 | 89 |
| Woodland | 0.2 | 11 |
| Totals | 1.9 | 100 |

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Dear Mr Cottle

**RE ST HELENS UNITORY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - LAND AT MICKLEHEAD
ROUNDAABOUT**

Please find enclosed a copy of the ALC report and maps for the site at Micklehead Roundabout, part of the St Helens UDP. Whilst the site has been classified as non-agricultural land a couple of auger borings were carried out in the northern most field of the site. The auger borings showed the soils to be typically sandy clay loam texture, overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to an assumed stony permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class III and ALC grade 3a.

I hope that you find this satisfactory.

Yours sincerely

S KANGH