

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
HAYDOCK PARK FARM, SITE 29**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
ST HELENS UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
HAYDOCK PARK FARM, SITE 29**

**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
2	4.0	9.2
3a	16.8	38.6
3b	13.7	31.5
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.8	1.9
Woodland	4.7	10.8
Urban	0.4	0.9
Non agricultural	2.7	6.2
Open Water	0.4	0.9

- 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 43.5 ha site is situated to the east of Haydock. The site is bounded to the west by the M6 and to the north by the A580. Land to the east is mostly in agricultural 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 fallow following cereal crop.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: SJ 586970

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	898
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1411

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	211
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 Bunter Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder Clay .

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

## **6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.0 ha (9.2%) of the survey area and is found in the north west of the site to the west of Haydock Park Farm.**

**6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy loam and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. There is gleying present within the subsoil but no Slowly Permeable Layer.**

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

**6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 16.8 ha (38.6%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the east of Haydock Park Farm.**

**6.2.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam with either sand or clay to depth. Gleying occurs in the subsoil within 40cm depth, placing these soils into Wetness Class III.**

**6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is soil wetness.**

**6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 13.7 ha (31.5%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the south of Ellam's Brook.**

**6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the Slowly Permeable Layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.**

**6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.**

**6.4 Other land on the site includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.8 ha (1.9%) of the survey area and comprises the derelict farmhouse and buildings at Haydock Park Farm, plus a large shed currently being used as a vegetable store. Woodland occupies 4.7 ha (10.8%) of the survey area and consists of Ellam's Rough and land alongside Lodge Lane. Non agricultural land occupies 2.7 ha (6.2%) of the survey area and comprises land around Haydock Park Farm and between the M6 and Lodge Lane where tipping has taken place. Urban land occupying 0.4 ha (0.9%) of the survey area comprises the hard surfaced lane to Haydock Park Farm. Open water occupies 0.4 ha (0.9%) of the survey area and comprises Cowhey Dam.**

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	4.0	9.2	11.6
3a	16.8	38.6	48.7
3b	13.7	31.5	39.7
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.8	1.9	
Woodland	4.7	10.8	
Urban	0.4	0.9	
Non agricultural	2.7	6.2	
Open Water	0.4	0.9	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>