

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
ST HELENS UDP  
ASHTON ROAD (SITE 30)**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
ST HELENS UDP  
ASHTON ROAD (SITE 30)**

**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	5.6	40
3b	5.9	42
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.7	5
Urban	1.8	13

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

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 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 14.0 ha site is situated to the north of Newton-le-Willows. The eastern boundary is formed by the M6 motorway, the southern boundary adjoins school grounds; the western boundary is formed by Ashton Road and the northern one adjoins woodland.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the St Helens UDP.
- 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 cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 583 966) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	895
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)	68

### 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 1:63 360. 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 Subgrade 3a - occupies 5.6 ha (40%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the southern part of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has either a medium clay loam or a sandy clay loam texture with sand horizons at depth. Observations of gleying places these soils in either Wetness Class II or III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 5.9 ha (42%) of the survey area and is found in the northern part of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.7 ha (5%) of the urban - covering 1.8 ha (13%) of the survey area.

### 6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	5.6	40	49
3b	5.9	42	51
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.7	5	-
Urban	1.8	13	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>