

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 37.01**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 37.01**

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
3b	4.1	31
5	1.4	10
Other land		
Non-Agricultural	4.5	33
Urban	0.8	6
Not Surveyed	2.7	20

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 5 is soil depth.
- 1.4 The land has been disturbed due to the demolition of glasshouses, infill with overburden and quarrying in the past.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 13.5 ha site is situated to the north west of Prescot. The land immediately to the east and south of the site is predominantly in urban use. The site is bounded to the west by the A58.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Knowsley 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 grass of fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 453 927) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	921
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1387

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	213
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	79
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	64

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 - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1:63360. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 4.1 ha (31%) of the survey area and is found in the centre and south of the site. This land has been disturbed in the past by quarrying and the demolition of glasshouses.
- 6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, clay loam and clay. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. These soils are of variable depth due to the presence of rubble within them.
- 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Grade 5 - occupies 1.4 ha (10%) of the survey area and is found in the west of the site. This land has been disturbed due to infilling with overburden from local highway construction.
- 6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam to clay texture over overburden at less than 15 cm depth.
- 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil depth.
- 6.3 Other land includes Non Agricultural land which occupies 4.5 ha (33%) of the survey area as mown grass for recreation urban - covering 0.8 ha (6%) of the survey area at Brook Bridge and not surveyed which is currently being used as a Garden Centre.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	4.1	31	75
5	1.4	10	25
Other land			
Non-Agricultural	4.5	33	-
Urban	0.8	6	-
Not Surveyed	2.7	20	-
Totals	13.5	100	100