

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ST HELENS UDP
MOSS BANK ROAD (SITE 35)**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
ST HELENS UDP
MOSS BANK ROAD (SITE 35)**

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	1.2	75
3b	0.4	25

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is topsoil stone content.

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 1.6 ha site is situated to the west of Clinkham Wood. The northern boundary is formed by Cherry Tree Lane and the eastern one by housing adjacent to Moss Bank Road. The southern boundary adjoins a bowling green and the western one agricultural land.
- 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 514 984) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	931
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1360

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	216
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	73
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	57

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 to the agricultural use of this land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Lower Coal Measures - British Geological Survey Sheet 84 Wigan 1:63 360.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 1.2 ha (75%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has sandy loam texture overlying sand and occasionally clay with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.4 ha (25%) of the survey area and is found in the northern part of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture. The topsoil stone content exceeds 15%.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is topsoil stone content.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	1.2	75
3b	0.4	25
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Totals	1.6	100
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