AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

HOWICK HALL
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

Job No 38/93
MAFF Ref: EL21/10041

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HOWICK HALL, SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN

1. SUMMARY

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

Subgrade 3a	0.85 ha	(9% of the site)
Subgrade 3b	8.95 ha	(90% of the site)
Non agricultural	0.10 ha	(1% of the site)

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

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August 1993. An Agricultural Land Classification survey was undertaken according to the guidelines liade 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 9.9ha site is situated to the east of Howick Cross Lane.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the South Ribble Local Plan.

2.4 At the MAFF Land Use Plannning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at a scale of 1:10000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The 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.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	970 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1416 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant information includes:

Field capacity days	222 days
Moisture deficit wheat	77 mm
Moisture deficit potatoes	62 mm

4. SITE

4.1 Three factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are assessed when classifying land.

4.2 Gradient, microrelief and flooding 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 overlain by deposits of boulder clay - British Geological Survey, Sheet 75, scale 1 inch.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 0.85ha (9%) of the survey area and is found in the south west corner of the site.

6.1.1 The soils typically have a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay below 60cm. There is a slowly permeable layer below 60cm and the soils fall into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 8.95 ha (90%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam with clay present above 60cm, The slowly permeable layer is present above 60cm and the soils fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Non-agricultural land includes small ponds.

6.4 SUMMARYOF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub grade	Areas in hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural land
3a	0.85	9.0	9.0
3b	8.95	90.0	91.0
Non Agricultural	0.1	1.0	
Totals	9.9	100.0	
Total agricultural land	9.8		100.0

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