

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 58.01**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KNOWSLEY UDP, SITE 58.01

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	0.6	43
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.6	43
Urban	0.2	14

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

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 1.4 ha site is situated to the west of Prescott and is bounded by Junction 2 of the M57. The site is surrounded by roads.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an objection to 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 permanent grass.
- 2.6 The landowner reported that the land had been trafficked by heavy plant during motorway construction.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 453927) :

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 Middle Coal Measures - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1 Inch. This is overlain by 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 3b - occupies 0.6 ha (43%) of the survey area and is found on the western side of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay. The soils are gleyed and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.6 ha (43%) of the survey area and urban - occupying 0.2 ha (14%) of the site and comprising a garden.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	0.6	43	100
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.6	43	
Urban	0.2	14	
Totals	1.4	100	100