

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**SHAWBROOK  
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN**

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No: 38/93**  
**MAFF Ref: EL21/10041**

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR SHAWBROOK, SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN**

### **1 SUMMARY**

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

Subgrade 3a	9.4 ha	(31% of the site)
Subgrade 3b	20.7 ha	(68% of the site)
Agricultural buildings	0.15 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 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 30.25 ha site is situated to the south of Leyland and lies to the east of Leyland Lane and south of Shawbrook Road.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the local plan.

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 is misleading.

2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under grass, fodder beet and potatoes.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	942 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1407 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land includes:

Field Capacity Days	221 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	76 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	61 mm

### 4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are assessed when grading 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 Keuper Marl with deposits of boulder clay and sand and gravel in the south east corner of the site and alluvium along Shawbrook - British Geological Survey, Sheet 75, Preston, scale 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences soils which either have a clay loam texture overlying clay or a sandy clay loam texture in the south east part of the site.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 9.4 ha (31%) of the survey area and is found at the north western and south eastern corners of the site.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying clay below 55 cm with gleying below 40 cm. The soils are placed in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 20.7 ha (68%) of the survey area and is found over most of the site.

6.2.1 The soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay. The soils are gleyed above 40 cm and a slowly permeable layer is present above 60 cm, placing soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Farm buildings within the site boundary cover 0.15 ha.

### 6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	9.4	31.0	31.0
3b	20.7	68.0	69.0
Other land			
Agricultural buildings	0.15	1.0	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30.25</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>Total agricultural land:</b>	<b>30.1</b>		<b>100.0</b>

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
Wolverhampton  
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