

**SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN  
LAND AT CUERDEN  
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
MAY 1996**

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**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0551  
Job No: 008/96  
MAFF Ref: EL21/10041A  
Commission No: WO1891**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
SOUTH RIBBLE LOCAL PLAN  
LAND AT CUERDEN**

**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	20.4	13
3b	113.8	74
Other land	20.5	13

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

**2 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 1996. 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 154.7 ha site is situated to the west of Cuerden and is bisected by the A5083. The land is bounded to the north by the A582 whilst to the south is urban land and the M6.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the South Ribble 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 would be misleading.

2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under permanent grass with a small area of cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SD554242) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	985
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1382

3.2 The combination of average annual rainfall and accumulated temperature limits the site to climatic Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	229
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	73
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	56

### 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 Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 75 Preston 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay and sand and gravel.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 20.4 ha (13%) of the survey area and is found predominantly to the east of Lydiate Lane.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sandy loam and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The soils do not have a slowly permeable layer, however observations of gleying place these soils in Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 113.8 ha (74%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam or clay. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in either Wetness Class III or IV.

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

6.3 Other land occupies 20.5 ha (13%) of the survey area and includes woodland, ponds, buildings and roads.

### 6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	20.4	13	15
3b	113.8	74	85
Other land	20.5	13	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>