

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ST HELENS UDP
CLOCK FACE (SITE 5)**

**M J W Wood
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0689
Job No: 117/94
MAFF Ref: EL 25/10752**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
ST HELENS UDP, CLOCK FACE (SITE 5)**

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	0.4	100

- 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 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 0.4 ha site is situated to the south of St Helens, near Clock Face. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly in urban use. The south of the site is bounded by non agricultural strip used as Joy Walk. To the south of this and to the east of the site, the land is in agricultural use.
- 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 grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 532 912) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	858
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1403

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	201
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	83
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	69

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 Bunter Mottled Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 97 Runcorn 1:63 360 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.4 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	0.4	100	100
Totals	0.4	100	100