

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
HARLESCOTE AD HOC DEVELOPMENT  
SHREWSBURY**

**Resource Planning Team  
Statutory Group  
ADAS Wolverhampton**

**Job No. 46/93  
MAFF Ref: EL**

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HARLESCOTE AD HOC DEVELOPMENT SHREWSBURY

## 1. SUMMARY

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

Grade 1	1.9 ha	(2 % of the site)
Grade 2	18.5 ha	(19.7% of the site)
Subgrade 3a	58.0 ha	(61.7% of the site)
Subgrade 3b	12.2 ha	(13.0% of the site)
Open water	0.1 ha	(0.1% of the site)
Area not surveyed	3.3 ha	(3.5% of the site)

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of some of the land in Grades 2, 3a and 3b is soil wetness whilst other areas are limited by droughtiness.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August and September 1993. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) 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 the Land" (MAFF 1988).

2.2 The 94 ha site is situated to the north east of Shrewsbury and is bounded by the railway line in the east and the A528 in the west. The land immediately north of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Land immediately south of the site forms part of an industrial estate.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad hoc development proposal.

2.4 At LUPU's request this was a "detailed grid survey" at 1:10000 with a minimum 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, cereals and maize.

## 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site.

Average Annual Rainfall	673mm
Accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June	1397 day °C
Field Capacity Days	141 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	103mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	93 mm

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

#### **4. SITE**

4.1 The assessment of site factors is primarily concerned with the way in which topography influences the use of agricultural machinery. These include gradient, microrelief and flooding.

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 Upper Mottled Sandstone BGS Sheets 138 and 152 Wern and Shrewbsury respectively. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay, sand and gravel and alluvium.

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

#### **6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 1.9 ha (2%) of the survey area and is found on the eastern half of the site.

6.1.1 These soils have variable topsoil textures which include sandy loam, sandy silt loam and sandy clay loam over sandy clay loam and sandy clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile.

6.2 Grade 2 - occupies 18.5 ha (19.7%) of the survey area and is found in two distinct blocks, one in the central southern part of the site, the other in the north western part fo the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has either a clay loam, sandy clay loam or silty clay loam texture over sandy clay loam or clay to depth, with few or no stones in the profile.

6.2.2 Some of the profiles are limited in terms of agricultural use by soil

wetness while other profiles are limited by soil droughtiness.

6.3 Sub Grade 3a - occupies 58ha (61.7%) of the survey area and is found in the western and northern central parts of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has either a clay loam or sandy loam texture over clay or sandy clay loam respectively. The latter often goes onto sand at depth.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of some of the land in sub-grade 3a is soil wetness whilst other areas of subgrade 3a are limited by droughtiness.

6.3.3 Within the area identified as subgrade 3a there are some profiles of higher quality land but these areas are too small to be mapped at this scale.

6.4 Subgrade 3b - occupies 12.2 ha (13%) of the survey area and is found on the eastern side of the site adjacent to the railway line.

6.4.1 The soil typically has silty clay loam texture over clay loam onto clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile.

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

6.5 Other land includes open water which covers 0.1 ha (0.1%) of the survey area and is composed of two ponds located in the east of the site.

An area of 3.3 ha (3.5%) was not surveyed as a bull occupied this field in the south east of the site.

#### 6.6. Summary of the Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade	Areas in hectares	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
1	1.9	2.0	2.0
2	18.5	19.7	20.0
3a	58.0	61.7	64.0
3b	12.2	13.0	14.0
Open water	0.1	0.1	-
Not surveyed	3.3	3.5	-
Total	94	100	

Resource Planning Team  
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