

## STATEMENT OF PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

### LODGE COPPICE, BROSELEY

A reconnaissance survey to confirm the Consultant's findings at Lodge Coppice was carried out by the Resource Planning Team in January 1993. The site covers about 22 ha and is situated to the south west of Broseley. It is bounded by the B4376 and Little Lodge Coppice to the south, a track to the west and Lodge Lane and existing workings to the east. There is further agricultural land to the north. At the time of the survey most of the site was in agricultural use, with cereals and permanent grassland.

#### Climate

Average annual rainfall - 766 mm

Accumulated temperature above 0°C Jan - June - 1292 day °C

Field capacity days - 181

Moisture deficit wheat - 82 mm

Moisture deficit potatoes - 65 mm

The combination of rainfall and temperature results in an overall climatic limitation to Grade 2.

#### Site

The land is undulating and ranges in altitude from 145 m at Lodge Farm in the east to 190 m in the west. Slopes are variable and over small areas steeper slopes of up to 10° restrict the land to Grade 3B. Variations in direction and angular slope may have resulted from settlement following underground mining.

#### Soils

The solid geology in the vicinity of the site comprises Middle Coal Measures in the east and Upper Ludlow Shales in the west. This have given rise to medium and heavy textured soils, over bed rock in places.

## **Agricultural Land Classification**

### **Grade 2**

A small area of Grade 2 has been mapped in the south west corner of the site. Soils are silt loams or sandy silt loams over silty clay loams. They are restricted to this grade by climate.

### **Grade 3A**

The area of Grade 3A includes medium clay loams over clay loam and sandy clay loam subsoils which clay at depths below about 50 cm. Wetness is the major limitation to the use of these soils.

### **Grade 3B**

A large area of Grade 3B has been mapped over the northern half of the site. Soils are medium clay loams to heavy clay loams with clay below 30 cms. Wetness is the main limiting factor but this grade also includes the areas of steeper slopes (greater than 7°) towards the western end of the site.

### **Grade 4**

Land has been mapped as Grade 4 at the eastern end of the site around Little Lodge Coppice. Soils are heavy clay loams over clay and are restricted to this grade by wetness.

### **Non Agricultural**

This comprises a small area of woodland and scrub.

### **Area of land in each grade**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>hectares</b>	<b>% of total area</b>
Grade 2	2.9	13
Grade 3A	3.8	17
Grade 3B	11.6	52
Grade 4	3.8	17
Non agricultural	0.3	1
Total	22.4	100

## **Soil Units**

### **Unit 1**

25 cm of dark grey or greyish brown medium clay loam over dark grey heavy clay loam over clay below about 50 cm. Subsoil colour varies but generally light grey with many ochreous mottles, manganese concretions and fragments of coal. Gleying occurs below the topsoil and slowly permeable layers are found at depths below 30 cm.

### **Unit 2**

20-30 cm of dark grey heavy clay loam or clay over heavily mottled light grey clay. Soils are gleyed and have slowly permeable layers within 40 cm.

### **Unit 3**

30 cm of dark greyish brown silt loam or sandy silt loam over yellowish brown sandy silt loam, sandy clay loam or silty clay loam. Stone and weathering rock is encountered at depths below 50 cm in some profiles. Soils are not gleyed and do not have slowly permeable layers. They are porous and friable.

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