

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
DONNINGTON FARM**

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**Job No: 051/94
ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0661
MAFF Ref: EL35/00008**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN,
DONNINGTON FARM**

1.0 SUMMARY

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

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
2	13.3	98
Other land		
Urban	0.3	2

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is soil droughtiness.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August 1994. An 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 Agricultural Land" (MAFF, 1988).

2.2 The 13.6 ha site is situated to the north of Muxton, Telford. The land is bounded to the north by the A518, to the south by housing and to the east by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin District Local Plan.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1 : 10,000 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 survey the site was predominantly under grass and being grazed by horses. Land to the west of the track to the bridge was not being farmed, whilst land adjacent to the caravan site in the east of the site was in set aside. The small field in the south-eastern corner of the site was under grass.

2.6 The survey was carried out during a period of prolonged dry weather. The dry conditions prevented some augerings being made to full depth and grades have been extrapolated from the soil pit.

3.0 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site, (Grid Ref: SJ712145):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	682
Accumulated Temperature above 0° C for January to June (day °C)	1402

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for agricultural land classification are:

Field Capacity Days (days)	153
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	99
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	89

4.0 SITE

4.1 When classifying land, three site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, microrelief and flooding.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

5.0 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area consists of Lower Mottled Sandstone (British Geological Survey Sheet 153, Wolverhampton, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consist predominantly of a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and clay.

6.0 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 13.3 ha (98%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand with clay at depth.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land in this grade is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Urban land occupies 0.3 ha (2%) of the site and comprises a track and an embankment for a bridge. There is also an area of garden adjacent to Donnington Farm.

6. Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/sub-grade	Area (ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
2	13.3	98	100
Other land			
Urban	0.3	2	
Totals	13.6	100	100

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September 1994**