

**BATTLEFIELD/HARLESCOTT, SHREWSBURY  
AD HOC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL  
Agricultural Land Classification**

**August and September 1993  
November 1996  
and February 1997**

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Job No: 25/RPT/0806  
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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
BATTLEFIELD/HARLESCOTT, SHREWSBURY  
AD HOC DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

**SUMMARY**

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

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
1	1.9	1.8
2	18.5	18.0
3a	61.7	59.9
3b	20.5	19.9
Other Land	0.4	0.4
<b>Total Survey Area</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

2. The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2, Subgrade 3a and Subgrade 3b is either soil wetness or soil droughtiness.

**INTRODUCTION**

3. The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August and September 1993 with additional areas surveyed in November 1996 and February 1997. 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).

4. The 103 ha site is situated to the north east of Shrewsbury and is bounded by Battlefield in the east and the A528 in the west. The land immediately to the north of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Land immediately to the south of the site forms part of an industrial estate. An area of the site previously not visited has now been surveyed.

5. The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the ad hoc development proposal for Shrewsbury.

6. 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.

7. At the times of the survey the site was under permanent grass, cereals, sugar beet and maize.

## CLIMATE

8. The following interpolated data are relevant for the site :

Factor	Units	Values
Grid Reference	N/A	SJ 505 169
Altitude	m, AOD	80
Accumulated Temperature	day °C	1397
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	673
Field Capacity Days	days	141
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	103
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	93

9. There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

## SITE

10. Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

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

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

12. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Upper Mottled Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheets 138 and 152 Wem and Shrewsbury 1 Inch respectively. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder clay, sand and gravel and alluvium.

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

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

14. Grade 1 - occupies 1.9 ha (1.8%) of the survey area and is found on the eastern half of the site.

15. 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.

16. Grade 2 occupies 18.5 ha (18.0%) 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 of the site.

17. 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.

18. Some of the profiles are limited in terms of agricultural use by soil wetness, while other profiles are limited by soil droughtiness.

19. Subgrade 3a occupies 61.7 ha (59.9%) of the survey area and is found in the western, northern central and south eastern parts of the site.

20. The soil typically has either a clay loam or sandy loam texture over sand or sandy clay loam respectively. The latter often goes onto sand at depth. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a whilst for other profiles observations of gleying and depth to slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

21. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

22. Subgrade 3b occupies 20.5 ha (19.9%) of the survey area and is found in the eastern side of the site.

23. The soil typically has a silty clay loam or clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and depth to slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

25. Other land includes open water, roads and an urban area. This covers 0.4 ha (0.4%) of the survey area.

26. 3.3 ha of the September 1993 survey area was not surveyed as a bull occupied the field in the south east of the site. This area was surveyed in February 1997 and the land graded as Subgrade 3a and Subgrade 3b.

27. The amount of land take by grade, for the present proposed road and the associated works (including car park, lake and embankments) is detailed in the table below:-

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Grade	Area of Land take (hectares)
1	0.3
2	5.6
3a	6.1
3b	2.1
Not surveyed	0.5

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28. The amount of agricultural land severed by grade between the proposed road and the existing urban edge (excluding land with existing planning permission for development) is detailed in the table below:-

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Grade	Area of Land take (hectares)
2	7.0
3a	28.3
3b	9.5
Other	0.3

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