

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN  
SITES 916b & 916f - HAGLEY**

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## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BROMSGROVE LOCAL PLAN SITES 916b & 916f HAGLEY**

### **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
2	12.7	72
3b	2.8	16
Other land		
Non Agricultural	1.0	6
Not surveyed	1.0	6

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b include gradient and soil wetness.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The sites were surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 1992 as part of a much larger area (ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0564). 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 17.5 ha site is situated on the western side of West Hagley. The land extends south from Brake Lane to the railway line and from the railway line to the boundary of the housing. The eastern boundary is formed by the existing urban edge, while the western boundary adjoins agricultural land.
- 2.3 The report and map were requested by MAFF in connection with the Bromsgrove District Local Plan.
- 2.4 When the survey was carried out in February 1992. The land was surveyed at 1:5000 scale on a free survey with an 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, cereals and fallow.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the sites (SO 895805) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	728
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1392

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on these sites.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	168
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	95
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	83

### 4 SITE

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

4.2 Gradient imposes a limitation on the agricultural use of land close to Sweet Pool.

### 5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Upper Mottled Sandstone and Lower Keuper Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 167 Dudley 1:50000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam or medium clay loam texture.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 12.7 ha (72%) of the site and is found between Brake Lane and the railway line and close to Sweet Pool.
  - 6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand to depth, with few or no stones present within the profile. Occasionally clay is present below 90 cm. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Occasional profiles of Grade 1 quality are present, but are too scattered to identify separately.
  - 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.8 ha (16%) of the site and is found in two areas.
  - 6.2.1 The first area of Subgrade 3b is found close to the boundary of the residential area and north of the railway line where soils typically have a medium clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.
  - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
  - 6.2.3 The second area of Subgrade 3b is close to Sweet Pool where gradient exceeds 7°
  - 6.2.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient.
- 6.3 Other land includes an area of woodland close to Sweet Pool which occupying 10 ha (6%) of the site and an area not surveyed in February 1992 covering 1.0 ha (6%).

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Site 916b

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	3.0	70	91
3b	0.3	7	9
Non agricultural	1.0	12	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Site 916f

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	9.7	73	79
3b	2.5	19	21
Other land Not surveyed	1.0	8	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>