AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HEYROSE FARM, TABLEY SUPERIOR

M Wood
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton

ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0638
Job Number: 031/94
MAFF Ref: EL 06/10409

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
Heyrose Farm, Tabley Superior

1. SUMMARY

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

Grade/Subgrade	Hectares	% of Site
3a	4.6	19
3b	17.4	70
Other Land		
Non Agricultural	2.4	10
Open Water	0.3	1

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land in Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 1994. 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 24.7ha site is situated to the north of Heyrose Farm (SJ708796). The land immediately to the north, south and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, whilst land to the west and southwest is used as a golf course.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad hoc development proposal for a golf course extension.

2.4 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.

2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under cereals.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	719
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1399

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include;

Field Capacity Days (days)	187
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	79

4. SITE

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

4.2 These factors 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 Lower Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 98 Stockport 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a covers 4.6ha (19%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site as a ridge running east to west.

6.1.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam texture over sandy clay loam and clay to depth, with few stones within the profile. There are occasional pockets of sandier material in the subsoil of this unit. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class III.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is soil wetness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 17.4ha (70%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay loam or sandy clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV. Occasionally topsoils may be a sandy clay loam in texture.

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

6.3 Other land includes non agricultural land which occupies 2.4ha (10%) of the survey area and is found in the west of the site as part of the golf course; open water occupies 0.3ha (1%) of the survey area.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in ha	% of Survey Area	% Agricultural Land
3a	4.6	19	21
3b	17.4	70	79
Other land			
Non Agricultural	2.4	10	-
Open Water	0.3	1	-
Totals	24.7	100	100

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton

May 1994