

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LICHFIELD LOCAL PLAN

RAVENSHAW

1. SUMMARY

The Ravenshaw site consists of 170ha of which 118 ha is agricultural land. The agricultural land comprises 9.4% grade 2 and 90.6% sub-grade 3a. The major agricultural limitations are soil wetness and topsoil stone content.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Ravenshaw site is located approximately 2 km north of Lichfield. It is bounded to the north by the Trent and Mersey Canal and to the south, west by the railway line between Lichfield and Rugeley. The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in July 1993 to provide information for the Lichfield Local Plan. A grid survey method was used at a scale of 1:25000 with a sampling density of 1 per 4 hectares. Final mapping was at a scale of 1:25000 and enlargements of the map would not be accurate.

At the time of survey the agricultural land use consisted of ley grassland and pasture, potatoes and sugar beet.

3. CLIMATE

The average altitude of the site is 76m and the average annual rainfall within the vicinity of the site is 700mm. The accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is 1389 day °C. There are no climatic limitations to the agricultural use of the site.

4. RELIEF

North of Woods Farm the site is almost level with no major relief feature. West of Tomhay Wood the land slopes gently south to Full Brook; gradient is not a limitation to agriculture.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOIL

5.1 The geology of the site consists predominantly of Old River Gravel. A band of Red Marl occurs along the southern boundary of the site, with alluvium occurring alongside Full Brook.

5.2 Soils to the north of the road consist of very dark brown medium sandy loam topsoil over sandy clay loam and sand. The topsoil stone content is moderately high and this is the major limitation to agricultural use of these soils.

South of the road the soils are generally of a heavier texture; medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoil overlies clay and sandy clay loam.

Topsoil stone content is the major limiting factor on soils immediately south of the road.

In the south of the site a slowly permeable layer is encountered in the subsoil and soil wetness is the major limitation to agricultural use.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2

This grade covers 6.5% of the site and is restricted to an area in the south-west. The soils consist of medium clay loam topsoil over mottled clay subsoil. There is no slowly permeable layer and topsoil stone content is the major limitation to agricultural use in this grade.

6.2 Sub-grade 3a

This sub-grade covers 63% of the site. North of the road the major limitation to agricultural use is topsoil stone content. Towards the southern boundary of the site topsoil stone content decreases and soil wetness is the major limitation to agricultural use.

6.3 Other Land

Woodland occupies 29% of the site and the remaining land use consists of farm buildings and urban use.

7. STATISTICS

Grade/Sub Grade	Area (ha)	% of total land	% of agricultural land
2	11.1	6.5	9.4
3a	107.6	63.1	90.6
Woodland	50.1	29.4	
Other land	1.6	1.0	
Total area	170.4		
Total agricultural area	118.7		

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