

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
OPTION FIVE - LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN**

**M Wood
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0619
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR OPTION FIVE - LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN

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
3b	18.9	96
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.5	2
Urban	0.4	2

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 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 19.8 ha site is situated to the north of Leominster. The land immediately to the north, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, whilst land to the south of the canalised River Lugg is in urban use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Leominster District Local Plan.
- 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 grass and cereals.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	739
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1432

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	167
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	101
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	92

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 Devonian and Silurian Mudstones - adjoining British Geological Survey Sheet 198 Hereford 1:50000. This is overlain with Quaternary deposits, till and alluvium.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 18.9 ha (96%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a silty clay loam texture overlying silty clay loam and/or silty clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV and III.

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

6.2 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.5 ha (2%) of the survey area and are found to the west of the site and urban-covering 0.4 ha (2%) of the survey area as a road and housing at Portley House.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	18.9	96	100
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.5	2	-
Urban	0.4	2	-
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Totals	19.8	100	100
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