

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WREKIN LOCAL PLAN, NEWPORT**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WREKIN LOCAL PLAN, NEWPORT

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 sites
2	7.5	35
3a	13.0	61
Urban	0.7	4

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 1995. 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 Four individual sites were surveyed around Newport.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin 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 Site A was under permanent pasture, Site B was unfarmed, Site C was in set aside and Site D under permanent pasture.

6 **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 7.5 ha (35%) of the survey area and is found to the south-east of Newport at Site D.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Some profiles contained a matrix of sand and clay at depth, occasionally with slowly permeable layers.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 13.0 ha (61%) of the survey area and is found on all four sites.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand with clay to depth. Individual borings of a higher grade are mapped within these areas as they were too small to map separately.

6.2.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

6.3 Urban - occupies 0.7 ha (4%) of the survey area.

7 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Site	Grade	Area in Hectares	% of Site	% of Local Plan area
A	3a	3.9	100	18
B	3a	1.9	100	9
C	3a	4.9	100	23
D	2	7.5	71	35
	3a	2.3	22	11
	Urban	0.7	7	4
Total		21.2		100

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the sites (Grid Ref) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	675-684
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1385-1401

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	158-162
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	97-99
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86-88

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 Glacial Sand and Gravel, and Triassic Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 139 1:50,000..

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils, which are typically sandy loams overlying loamy sands, with either sand at depth or a matrix of sand and clay.