

**LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN - SITE L3
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

JUNE 1996

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN - SITE L3**

1. SUMMARY

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

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
1	2.2	63
2	1.3	37

Total Survey Area	3.5	100
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1.2 There are no limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 1.

1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is topsoil stone content.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 1996. 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 3.5 ha site is situated to the south of Leominster. The land to the south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the north and east of the site 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 oats and fallow.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data area relevant for the site S0496 579.

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	737
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1423

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)	90

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 Raglan Mudstone - British Geology Survey Sheet 198 Hereford 1:50 000. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary till.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 2.2ha (63%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy silt loam texture overlying sandy silt loam and clay loam to depth, with few stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils in Grade 1. These soils are in wetness class I.

6.1.2 There are no limitations to the agricultural use of the land in this grade.

6.2 Grade 2 - occupies 1.3ha (37%) of the survey area and is found in the west of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a sandy silt loam texture overlying sandy silt loam and clay loam to depth, with few to common stones within the profile. Topsoil stone content (2cm - 6cm in size) was between 5 and 10% total volume.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is topsoil stone content.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADE

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
1	2.2	63
2	1.3	37
Total Survey Area	3.5	100
