

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CROWCROFT COTTAGE FARM
LEIGH SINTON**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CROWCROFT COTTAGE FARM, LEIGH SINTON

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
3a	6.8	67
3b	3.3	32
Woodland	0.1	1

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

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April 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 10.2 ha site is situated west of Leigh Sinton, west of the A4103 Road. The site is surrounded by agricultural land.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with proposals for a 9-hole golf course.
- 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 wheat and horticultural use.

3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: (SO764502)

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	681
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1426

- 3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.
- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	154
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	102

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 Triassic Keuper Marl (Soil Survey Record no 36 - Soils in Herefordshire IV). This is overlain by Silurian derived Pleistocene Head deposits.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils, which have a silty clay loam over clay loam texture or a clay loam texture over clay where the drift is thin or absent.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Sub-grade 3a - occupies 6.8 ha (67%) of the survey area and is found through the centre of the site from west to east.
 - 6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium silty clay loam topsoil texture overlying medium clay loam and heavy clay loam to depth. The soils are slightly stony and become very stony with depth. These soils fall into Wetness Class III.
 - 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Sub-grade 3b - occupies 3.3 ha (32%) of the survey area and is found in the north and south of the site.
 - 6.2.1 These soils typically have a heavy silty clay loam or heavy clay loam topsoil texture overlying clay within 40 cm. These soils fall into Wetness Class IV.
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Woodland occupies 0.1 ha (1%) of the remaining survey area.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	6.8	67	67
3b	3.3	32	33
Other land	-	-	-
Woodland	0.1	1	-
Totals	10.2	100	100

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