

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN  
ISOMBRIDGE**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR  
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN  
ISOMBRIDGE**

**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
2	17.6	13.5
3a	75.4	57.7
3b	29.4	22.5
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	1.5	1.2
Non-agricultural	3.9	2.9
Urban	2.9	2.2

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on this site is soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 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 The 130.7 ha site is situated to the west of Telford. The land surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Shropshire Minerals 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 turf and recently sown cereals.
- 2.6 Irrigation is available on the site but is currently not being used. The supply is from water draining into a reservoir and an abstraction licence is not required, therefore details on the volume of water available cannot be supplied.

### **3 CLIMATE**

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 605138) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	637
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1429

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	136
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	104
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	96

### **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.

4.3 Flooding may be a limitation alongside the River Tern south of Isombridge but no information was available from the NRA.

### **5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Lower Mottled Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 152 Shrewsbury 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay, sand and gravel and river terrace deposits.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy loam, loamy sand or sandy clay loam texture.

## **6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 17.6 ha (13.5%) of the survey area and occurs in the south and south west of the site.**
- 6.1.1 In the south of the site the soils typically have a sandy loam texture over sandy clay loam and sand and are slightly stony. The moisture balance places these soils in Grade 2.**
- 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.1.3 In the south west of the site the soils typically have a sandy clay loam or sandy loam texture over clay loam and clay. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III or II.**
- 6.1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.**
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 75.4 ha (57.7%) of the survey area.**
- 6.2.1 The soil has a sandy loam or loamy sand texture over sand to depth, with common to many stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a.**
- 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 29.4 ha (22.5%) of the survey area.**
- 6.3.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam or loamy sand texture over sand to depth with common to many stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3b.**
- 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.3.3 Alongside the River Tern the soils comprise silty clay loam to depth or sandy loam over loamy sand. The soils are gleyed but without a slowly permeable layer and have been placed in Wetness Class IV on the basis of observations of the depth to the water table.**
- 6.3.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.**
- 6.4 Other land on the site includes agricultural buildings which occupy 1.5 ha (1.2%) of the survey area and comprise a store area for farm machinery and pumphouse. Non-agricultural land occupies 3.9 ha (2.9%) of the survey area and comprises a disused gravel workings, and urban occupies 2.9 ha (2.2%) of the site and comprises tar sealed roads through the site.**

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

<b>Grade/Sub-grade</b>	<b>Area in Hectares</b>	<b>% of Survey Area</b>	<b>% of Agricultural Land</b>
2	17.6	13.5	14.4
3a	75.4	57.7	61.6
3b	29.4	22.5	24.0
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	1.5	1.2	
Non-agricultural	3.9	2.9	
Urban	2.9	2.2	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>130.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>