

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
ROSS-ON-WYE LOCAL PLAN: SITE 2**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR ROSS-ON-WYE LOCAL PLAN: SITE 2

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
1	1.6	67
3a	0.8	33

- 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 Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness and flood risk.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April 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 2.4 ha site is situated to the north east of Ross town centre. The site is bounded to the north by Tanyard Lane and to the south by Rudhall Brook. Land to the east and west of the site is in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Ross-on-Wye 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 permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO605247) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	733
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1482

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	161
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	106
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	99

4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 Gradient and microrelief do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

4.3 The risk of frequent winter flooding of short duration and occasional summer flooding limits the land quality at the southern end of the site to Subgrade 3a.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 No detailed published geology map is available for the area.

5.2 The soils have a sandy clay loam texture overlying clay and sandstone.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 1.6 ha (67%) of the survey area and is found from the central west to the central east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam to depth or sandy clay loam and sandy clay to depth. The soils are not gleyed and there is no slowly permeable layer, neither do the soils have any drought limitation.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 0.8 ha (33%) of the survey area and is found in a small area in the north east of the site and in the south of the site bordering Rudhall Brook.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam texture, overlying sandy clay loam and sandstone bedrock within 80 cm with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.2.3 The area of Subgrade 3a close to Rudhall Brook in the south of the site is limited in its agricultural use by the risk of flooding. Evidence at the time of the survey indicated that there had been recent flooding.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
1	1.6	67
3a	0.8	33
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Totals	2.4	100
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