AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN
OLD CROFT ROAD, WALTON

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN OLD CROFT ROAD, WALTON

1. SUMMARY

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

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
2	16.3	67.6
3a	7.8	32.4

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

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 1994. An ALC 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 24.1 ha site is situated to the south west of Walton on the Hill. It is bounded to the south west by the A34 Cannock Road and to the north by Old Croft Road. The land is bounded to the South by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Stafford Local Plan.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 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 land was mostly in fallow after cereals.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	736 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1345 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for agricultural land classification are

Field Capacity Days	175 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	89 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	76 mm

4. SITE

4.1 When classifying land three site factors are taken into consideration: gradient, micro relief and flooding.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of these land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area consists of Bunter Pebble Beds, (British Geological Survey Sheet 139, 1 Inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consist predominately of sandy loam texture topsoils over loamy sand and sand.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 16.3 ha (67.6%) of the survey area and occurs across the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and either sand or sandy clay.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a occupies 7.8 ha (32.4%) of the survey area and occurs in 2 areas: on the gentle hill slope in the south west of the site, and other smaller area adjoining the eastern boundary.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a sandy clay loam of sandy loam texture overlying sand.

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

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area (Hectare)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	16.3	67.6	67.6
3a	7.8	32.4	32.4
Totals	**24.1**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
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