

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
THE HUMBERS, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
THE HUMBERS, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

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	18.9	66
3a	4.3	15
3b	5.4	19

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 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 October 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 28.6 ha site is situated to the north east of Donnington near Telford. The land immediately to the north, east and south of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the west of the site is part of Donnington Central Ordnance Depot.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Wrekin 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 cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 707 153) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	677
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1412

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	151
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	101
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	91

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 Mottle Sandstone and Soft Red Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 153, Wolverhampton. This is overlain with deposits of Glacial Sand and Gravel and Boulder Clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture, in the north west and south west and south east of the site, or a clay loam texture, in the north east of the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 18.9 ha (66%) of the survey area and is found in the north west, south east and south west of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or loamy sand texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 4.3 ha (15%) of the survey area and is found in a band through the centre of the eastern half of the site.

6.2.1 The soil has clay loam texture over clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class II or III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 5.4 ha (19%) of the survey area and is found in the north and north east of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	18.9	66	66
3a	4.3	15	15
3b	5.4	19	19
Totals	28.6	100.0	100.0