

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**  
***WEALD MOORS, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN***

***M WOOD***  
**Resource Planning Team**  
**ADAS Statutory Group**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON**

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WEALD MOORS, 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	148.2	40
3a	144.2	39
3b	59.9	15
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	6.5	2
Woodland	11.7	3
Urban	3.7	1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The majority of the site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August 1994. The remainder of the site (south of Wappenshall Farm) was surveyed in May 1990. 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 374.2 ha site is situated to the north of Wellington, near Telford. The land immediately to the north, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the south is in non agricultural and urban use.
- 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 semi-detailed grid survey at 1:25000. (The area of land to the south of Wappenshall Farm was surveyed at 1:10000 in May 1990). The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale (1:25000) and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under cereals, grass, horticultural crops and potatoes.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site SJ 647 146

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	664
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1411

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	142
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	100
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	90

### 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 drift geology of the area is comprised of Quaternary boulder clay and sand and gravel - British Geological Survey Sheet 152 Shrewsbury 1 Inch.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 148.2% ha (40%) of the survey area and is found in the west and centre of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Sandy clay loam maybe present in the subsoil. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Occasional profiles in the west of the site have deep sandy loam topsoils and are of Grade 1 quality, but are too small an area to map separately at this scale.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 144.2 ha (39%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the south of the motorway.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with subsoils being slightly stony. Clay loam or clay may be present in the subsoil. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 59.9 ha (15%) of the survey area and is found in the north and east of the site.

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

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

6.4 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 6.5 ha (2%) of the survey area and are found at Eyton and Wappenshall Farms; woodland - occupying 11.7 ha (3%) of the survey area near Eyton Hall and urban - covering 3.7 ha (1%) of the survey area at Eyton Hall.

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	148.2	40	42
3a	144.2	39	41
3b	59.9	15	17
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	6.5	2	-
Woodland	11.7	3	-
Urban	3.7	1	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>374.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>