

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
WREKIN LOCAL PLAN, HORTON**

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## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WREKIN LOCAL PLAN, HORTON

### 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	Area (ha)	% of site
2	11.6	64.8
3a	2.3	12.8
3b	2.0	11.2
Non- agricultural	0.2	1.1
Agricultural buildings	0.2	1.1
Urban	1.6	9.0

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil wetness. Lighter profiles are locally limited by droughtiness.

1.3 Droughtiness and soil wetness are both limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August 1994. 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 17.9 ha site is situated to the north of Horton in Telford. It is bounded to the south and west by minor roads and agricultural land. The site adjoins Crow Brook to the north.

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

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1:10 000 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 predominantly under grass with an area in the west under cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	676
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1416

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for agriculture land classification are:

Field Capacity Days (days)	150
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	100
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	90

### 4 SITE

4.1 When classifying land three site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, microrelief and flooding.

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

### 5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is consists of Upper Carboniferous Red Sandstone and Marls overlain by Boulder Clay and Sands and Gravels, (British Geological Survey Sheet 153, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which predominantly have either a clay loam or sandy loam texture overlying a subsoil of sandy clay loam over clay. Occasional lighter textured profiles of sandy loam over loamy sand over sand occur.

## **6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 11.6 ha (64.8%) of the survey area and occurs as a large central unit in the site.**

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture over sandy clay loam with clay at depth. Lighter bands of loamy sand and sand occur within the profiles.

6.1.2 Droughtiness and wetness are both limitations to the agricultural use of the land in this grade.

**6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 2.3 ha (12.8%) of the survey area and occurs as two separate units to the east and west of the site.**

6.2.1 To the east the soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and clay. The soils are gleyed within 40cm of the surface and there is a slowly permeable layer at that depth.

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

6.2.3 To the west the soils are lighter in texture with a sandy loam topsoil overlying a subsoil of loamy sand over sand.

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

**6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.0 ha (11.2%) of the survey area and occurs as a strip along the north eastern part of the site.**

6.3.1 These soils typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay. The clay forms a slowly permeable layer about 20-25cm.

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

**6.4 Urban land occupies 1.6 ha (9.0%) and mostly comprises land associated with local houses. Agricultural buildings occupy 0.2 ha (1.1%) Non-agricultural land occupies 0.2 ha (1.1%) and comprises of a small natural woodland mixed with an orchard.**

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	11.6	64.8	72.9
3a	2.3	12.8	14.5
3b	2.0	11.2	12.6
Non Agricultural	0.2	1.1	-
Agricultural Buildings	0.2	1.1	-
Urban	1.6	9.0	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Resource Planning Team  
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