AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WEEFORD ISLAND

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WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WEEFORD ISLAND

1 SUMMARY

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

Grade/Sub-grade	ha	% of site
2	34.3	35
3a	60.5	62
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.5)	
Woodland	1.7)	3
Water	0.1)	

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 May 1990 with an additional area in March 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 97.1 ha site is situated to the north of the A5 road and is bisected by the A38 road at Weeford Island.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal for a motorway service area.

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 May 1990 of the survey the site was under permanent grass, cereals and potatoes. Part of the additional area surveyed in March 1994 was under cereals and the remainder fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	693
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C for January to June (day °C)	1362

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	156
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	97
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86

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 Triassic Sandstones - British Geological Survey Sheet 154 1 inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy loam or loamy sand overlying sand.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 34.3 ha (36%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand below 50 cm.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 60.5 ha (62%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has loamy sand texture overlying sand below 40 cm.

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

6.2.3 There are small areas of clay present within the Subgrade 3a land. These soils have either a sandy loam or loamy sand topsoil texture and fall into wetness class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes an area of woodland, ponds, agricultural buildings and a track.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area (hectare)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	34.3	35	37
3a	60.5	62	63
3b			
Other land			-
Agricultural Buildings	0.5)		-
Woodland	1.7)2.3	3	-
Water	0.1)		
Totals	**97.1**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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WEEFORD ISLAND- EL 37/10022

Explanation of Grade 2 boundary change on land north of A5 and west of A38

Summary
The best match between the two surveys carried out in 1990 and 1994 is achieved by modifying the Grade 2 boundary.

Background
The main block of Grade 2 within this part of the site was mapped in the 1990 survey (map ref 007/90) with the eastern boundary closely following the hedgeline.
The strip of land between this area and the A5 was surveyed in March 1994 (map ref 25/rpt/0879). Borings in the vicinity of the eastern boundary of the Grade 2 block and the additional strip of land confirmed that the land close to this hedgeline was of Subgrade 3a quality. The Subgrade 3a land immediately to the east of the hedgeline extends down to the A5 and crosses the hedgeline towards the west.

With additional boring information the best match of the two surveys is made by pulling the Grade 2 eastern boundary westward away from the hedgeline and then south to the A5.

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