

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LICHFIELD LOCAL PLAN, SITE 1 WALSALL RD

Site 1 is situated on the south west edge of Lichfield between the Walsall road and a freight railway line. It was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April and May 1992. At the time of survey most of the site was in agricultural use with horticultural crops including soft fruit, cereals and grass. Non agricultural land includes the cricket ground in the east of the site and the allotments at Leomonsley.

Climate

Average annual rainfall - 705 mm.
Accumulated temperature above 0°C for January to June - 1378 day°C.
Moisture deficit winter wheat - 97mm.
Moisture deficit potatoes - 86 mm.
Medium duration of field capacity - 162 days.

Site

The site is level and gently sloping, ranging in altitude from about 80 m in the north east to just over 90 m in the west and south.

Soil

The solid geology comprises Keuper Sandstone with drift deposits of Alluvium alongside Trunk field Brook. Soils are sandy loams or loamy sands over loamy sand and sand and slightly stony in places. Along Trunk field Brook the soils have a high organic matter content. Lenses or horizons of sandy clay loam or clay occur in the subsoils of some profiles.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2. Most of the site has been mapped as grade 2. Soils are generally deep, medium sandy loams over loamy medium sand and medium sand, and only slightly stony in places. There are profiles of grade 1 quality within this area, particularly towards the north east of the site where organic matter contents are high.

Grade 3a

The higher land in the south west of the site has been mapped as grade 3a. Soils are loamy medium sands or medium sandy loams over medium sand and slightly stony, often with stony layers within the profile. The lighter textures and higher stone contents make these soils more prone to drought than those over the rest of the site.

Area of Land in each Grade

Grade	Ha	% of Total Area	% of agricultural Area
2	38.3	66	76
3a	12.2	21	24
Non agricultural	6.3	11	
Agricultural buildings	1.2	2	
Urban	0.5	1	
Total	58.5		

Resource Planning Team
Wolverhampton

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LICHFIELD LOCAL PLAN, SHORTBUTTS LANE**

This site is situated on the southern edge of Lichfield, between the railway line, Knowle Lane, the A5206 London Road and Shortbutts Lane. It was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 1992. At the time of survey most of the site was in agricultural use with wheat, barley, brassicas, potatoes and pasture.

Climate

Average annual rainfall - 708mm.

Accumulated temperature above 0°C for January to June - 1365 day °C.

Moisture deficit winter wheat - 96mm.

Moisture deficit potatoes - 84mm.

Median duration of field capacity - 160 days.

Site

The site is undulating, mainly sloping down to the north. Altitude ranges from 85m at Marsh Lane in the north to just over 115m on Knowle Hill in the south.

Soils

The solid geology in this area comprises Keuper Sandstone. Soils are mainly sandy loams over loamy sand and sand, with some fine sandy and silty horizons; and sandy clay loam and clay in the lower lying areas.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 1

A small area of grade 1 has been mapped in the centre of the site where there are deep sandy loams over loamy sand with fine sandy and silty horizons at depth.

Grade 2

Grade 2 occurs over much of the remainder of the site. Soils include sandy loams over loamy sand and sand and some profiles with sandy clay loam and shallow clay horizons.

Grade 3a

Two areas of grade 3a have been mapped, in the north of the site and around Knowle Hill and Berryhill Farm in the south. Soils are mainly lighter in texture with sandy loam or loamy sand topsoils over loamy sand and sand, and therefore more prone to drought than those elsewhere on the site.

Grade 3b

A small area of grade 3b is found in the eastern corner of the site where slopes exceed 7°.

AREA OF LAND IN EACH GRADE

Grade	Hectares	% of Total Area	% of Agricultural Area
1	1.3	3	3
2	24.9	65	68
3a	9.8	26	27
3b	0.8	2	2
Non-agricultural	1.6	4	-
Total	38.4	-	-

RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
Wolverhampton
16 June 1992

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

Lichfield Local Plan, Cricket Lane

This site is situated on the south east of Lichfield, bounded by the A38, Cricket Lane, the A5206 London Road and the A51 Tamworth Road. It was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 1992. At the time of survey most of the site was in agricultural use with oilseed rape, cereals and one small field of grass.

Climate

Average annual rainfall - 684 mm
Accumulated temperature above 0°C for January to June - 1390 day °C
Moisture deficient winter wheat - 100 mm
Moisture deficient potatoes - 89 mm
Median duration of field capacity - 155 days

Site

The site is generally sloping, ranging in altitude from 76m alongside the stream in the south of the site to just over 80m in the north and west.

Soils

The solid geology comprises Keuper Sandstone with drift deposits of Alluvium in a very narrow band along the eastern edge of the site. Soils are mainly sandy loams and sandy silt loams over loamy sand and sand and slightly stony in places. Profiles with high organic matter content occur in the extreme north and towards the southern end of the site.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 1

A small area of grade 1 has been mapped in the north where there are deep medium sandy silt loam soils over loamy sand at depth.

Grade 2

Most of the remainder of the site has been mapped as grade 2. Soils are deep, medium sandy loams and sandy silt loams over loamy medium sand and medium sands and only slightly stony in places. Some profiles of grade 1 quality are found within the area shown as grade 2.

Grade 3a

Grade 3a land is found in the centre of the site and along the stream in the south. Soils are more stony, often with stony layers in the sub-soil and therefore more prone to drought than those elsewhere on the site.

AREA OF LAND IN EACH GRADE

Grade	Hectare	% of total area	% of agricultural area
1	2.7	7	7
2	28.6	75	78
3a	5.6	15	15
Non agricultural	0.3	1	
Urban	0.7	2	
Total	37.9		

RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
Wolverhampton

Description of the Grades and Subgrades

Grade 1 - excellent quality agricultural land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 - very good quality land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1.

Grade 3 - good to moderate quality agricultural land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a - good quality agricultural land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops (including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b - moderate quality agricultural land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4 - poor quality agricultural land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 - very poor quality agricultural land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict the use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.