

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON LOCAL PLAN
BISHOPTON

The site at Bishopton was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1993. The site consists of nine units designated A05, A07, A08, A09, A10, A11, A13, A14, A15 is located on the north-western fringe of Stratford-upon-Avon bounded to the west by the A46. The total area of the site is 49 ha.

At the time of survey the greater part of the site was under grass. Only unit A08 and the eastern half of unit A05 had been ploughed. At the northern end of unit A07 there is a strip of non-agricultural land on what may have been a road prior to the construction of the A46; tipping has taken place on this strip. In unit A08 the small field adjacent to the chicken unit is non-agricultural land. A buried pipeline runs the length of units A13 and A14 with raised inspection chambers at intervals.

Climate

The average annual rainfall in the vicinity of the site is 620mm and the accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is 1442 day °C. There is no overall climatic limitation to the agricultural use of the site.

Site

All units on the site are level or gently sloping with no limitation due to gradient. Ridge and furrow is found in several of the units and in units A09 and the north end of unit A13 this is very pronounced and may interfere with mowing.

Soil

Most of the site is underlain by Lower Lias Clay with Keuper Marl occurring in unit A05. The soils are heavy clays, gleyed and with slowly permeable subsoils. Stone content is low.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3a

Only a small proportion of the site falls into this grade, occurring in the south-eastern corner of unit A05. Heavy clay loam topsoils overlie brown clays with stony red clays occurring at depth. Wetness is the major factor limiting agricultural production.

Grade 3b

This grade covers the greater part of the site. Units A14 and A13 are very gently sloping with no microtopographic variation except for ridge and furrow in the north part of the A13. The soils are heavy clay loams and clays over clays, gleyed from the topsoil to depth. Wetness is the major limiting factor to agricultural use. Unit A15 rises to a low hill above unit A14. Soils are heavy clay loams over gleyed clays. Wetness is the major limiting factor.

Unit A07 is very greatly sloping with a slight terrace mid-way along the length. Soils are heavy clay loams over clays and are strongly gleyed. Wetness is the major limiting factor.

Unit A11 is gently sloping. Heavy clay loams overlie gleyed clays. Wetness is the major limiting factor.

Unit A08 is level to gently sloping. Heavy clay loam topsoils occur over gleyed clay subsoils. Wetness is the major limitation.

Unit A09 has a distinct ridge and furrow pattern which may interfere with the use of machinery. A geological boundary runs north-south across the unit and this is reflected in a change in soil colour; soils in the western half are olive brown while those in the east are brown. Both soils however have heavy clay loam topsoils over clays and are gleyed. Wetness is the major limiting factor to agricultural use.

Unit 10 is gently sloping with some relict ridge and furrow. Heavy clay loams overlie clays and the soils are gleyed. Wetness is the major limiting factor to agricultural use.

Unit A05 is gently sloping and the southern field has some remaining ridge and furrow. Heavy clay loams overlie red, stoneless clays and wetness is the limiting factor.

Area of land in each grade

	ha	% of total	% of agricultural area
Grade 3a	1.53	3.1	3.3
Grade 3b	45.59	92.7	96.7
Non agricultural	2.05	4.2	

Resource Planning Team
Wolverhampton

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