

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
LAND EAST OF PRIORSLEE**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - LAND EAST OF PRIORSLEE

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	7.3	12
3a	17.0	28
3b	33.0	55
Other land		
Agricultural Buildings	1.9	3
Woodland	0.3	< 1
Urban	1.1	2

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 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 60.6 hectare site is situated to the north of the M54 Motorway and east of the link road between the M54 and A5 road. The northern boundary of the site is formed by the A5 road while the west and eastern boundary adjoin agricultural land. The southern boundary is close to the link road between the motorway and the A5.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin District Local Plan.
- 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 of the survey the site was under oilseed rape, cereals and daffodil bulbs.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 727 102):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	730
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1309

3.2 Over much of the land to the north of The Woodhouse there is a climatic limitation of Grade 2. In the southern part of the site, approximately below 150m, there is no overall climatic limitation.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	167
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	83
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	68

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 Upper Coal Measures Sandstone and Marl beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 153 Wolverhampton 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a sandy clay loam or clay loam texture overlying clay.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 7.3 ha (12%) of the survey area and is found in the north and south of the site.
 - 6.1.1 There are 2 types of soil within this grade with different limitations to the agricultural use. The soil has either a medium sandy loam texture overlying medium clay loam and loamy medium sand or a sandy clay texture onto heavy clay loam and clay below 70cm
 - 6.1.2 Where sandy soil textures occur a soil droughtiness limitation exists while clay textures give rise to a soil wetness limitation.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 17.0 ha (28%) of the survey area and is found close to The Woodhouse.
 - 6.2.1 The soil typically has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy loam and clay at depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 33.0 ha (55%) of the survey area and is found to the north of The Woodhouse.
 - 6.3.1 The soil typically has a medium 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 1.9 ha (3%) of the survey area at The Woodhouse; woodland - occupying 0.3 ha (< 1%) and a road occupying 1.1 ha (2%) of the site classified as urban.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	7.3	12	13
3a	17.0	28	30
3b	33.0	55	57
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	1.9	3	
Woodland	0.3	<1	
Urban	1.1	2	
Totals	60.6	100	100