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## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT AMINGTON HALL (TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in November and December 1992. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) 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 Land" (MAFF 1988).

### **LOCATION**

The site is situated to the East of Tamworth and is bounded to the North by the B5493 and to the South by the River Anker. The land varies in altitude from between 61 metres adjacent to the Anker to 80 metres near Ashlands Farm.

Altitude and relief do not impose any restrictions on the grading of the site.

### **CLIMATE**

Assessment of climatic limitation is based upon average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June (ATO). For this site the figures are 645 mm and 1390°C respectively, thus indicating that there are no climatic limitations. The field capacity days figure is 169 days, the mean last frost is early May.

### **FLOODING**

The site was surveyed at the time of a major flood event. There was no evidence of the water actually encroaching the survey area and therefore flooding does not affect the grading of the site.

### **GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

The solid geology of this site comprises mainly of Red and Grey Marls and First Terrace Sandstone deposits. This is overlain with boulder clay, unstratified gravelly clays and stratified sand gravels. These have given rise to soils of a clay rich nature, typically of clay loam or sandy clay loam over clay subsoils. However, there are occasional sand rich profiles.

### **LAND USE**

At the time of the survey beans, cereals and oilseed rape were being grown with the remainder of the site in permanent pasture (with relic ridge and furrow) or fallow.

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

**Grade 2** covers 25.2 ha and 12.9% of the site. It occurs in five distinct pockets located at the centre of the area surveyed.

Typically these soils are of sandy loam or sandy silt loam onto subsoils of sandy clay loam and clay at depth. Occasionally topsoils may be of a clay loam texture. The net result of this is that the majority of these soils fall into wetness class 2 and are thus limited to a certain degree of wetness.

Isolated profiles of grade 1 and 3a have been included within this area as they are of an insufficient area to be mapped separately.

**Grade 3a** covers 55.3 ha and 28.2% of the site. It occurs at a number of locations throughout the site.

These soils are typified in the western and central parts of the site by clay loam or sandy silt loam over sandy clay loam and, or, clay subsoils. These soils are identified as being of wetness class 3 and are thus limited by wetness.

East of Amington Old Hall, this grade is typified by a different type of soil profile. Here the topsoils are of a sandy loam over sandy clay loam, loamy sand or sand. The subsoil horizons may have a discontinuous moderately stony layer with occasional signs of iron deposition. These soils are limited by droughtiness.

**Grade 3b** covers 103 ha and 52.5% of the site. It occurs in the western and eastern parts of the area surveyed.

Typically these soils are of medium or heavy clay loam over clay. There are pockets of sandy clay loam topsoils distributed within this grade. These soils have been identified as being of wetness class 3 and 4, thus they are limited by wetness.

Non-Agricultural - covers 8.4 ha and 4.3% of the site.

Farm Buildings - covers 1.7 ha and 0.9% of the site.

Open Water - covers 0.9 ha and 0.4% of the site.

Urban - covers 1.5 ha and 0.8% of the site.

## SUMMARY

Grade	Area in Hectares	% of Total Area	% of Agricultural Area
2	25.2	12.9	13.7
3a	55.3	28.2	30.1
3b	103.8	52.5	56.2
Non-Agric	8.4	4.3	-
Farm Buildings	1.7	0.9	-
Open Water	0.9	0.4	-
Urban	1.5	0.8	-
Total	<u>196.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>100.0</u>

**RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM  
Wolverhampton**

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