AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

EXTENSION TO KEMERTON PIT

R D Metcalfe   Job No: 68/94
Resource Planning Team   ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0672
ADAS Statutory Group   MAFF Ref: EL17/10400
WOLVERHAMPTON

mkember/feb5/je

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR EXTENSION TO KEMERTON PIT

1.   SUMMARY

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

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
3a	7.0	69
3b	2.6	26
Woodland	0.5	5

1.2   The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil droughtiness.

2.0   INTRODUCTION

2.1   The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 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 10.1 ha site is situated to the south of Kemerton. The land lies to the north of an existing sand and gravel working and is bounded on the east by Kinsham Lane, to the north by agricultural land and to the west by woodland.

2.3   The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an extension to existing sand and gravel workings.

2.4   At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit 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 survey the site was fallow.

3.0　CLIMATE

3.1　The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: (SO 939364):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	647
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C for January to June (day°C)	1474

3.2　There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3　Other relevant climatic data for agricultural land classification are:

Field Capacity Days (days)	139
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	110
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	103

4.0　SITE

4.1　Three site factors; gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2　These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

5.0　GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1　The solid geology of the area is comprised of Lower Lias Clay (British Geological Survey Sheet 216, Tewkesbury 1:50000). This is overlain by deposits of river terrace sand and gravel.

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

6.0   AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1   Subgrade 3a - occupies 7.0 ha (69%) of the survey area

    6.1.1   The soil has a sandy clay loam texture overlying a very stony layer below 70cm. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

    6.1.2   Soil droughtiness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of the land in this grade.

6.2   Sub-grade 3b - occupies 2.6 ha (26%) of the survey area and occurs in two small areas.

    6.2.1   These soils typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying a very stony layer at 50cm. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3b.

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

6.3   Other land includes an area of woodland with recently planted trees occupying 0.5 ha (5%).

6.4   Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/ sub-grade	Area (ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
3a	7.0	69	72
3b	2.6	25	28
Woodland	0.5	5	
Totals	**10.1**	**100**	**100**