

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE**

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WOLVERHAMPTON
December 1993**

**Job No 084/93
MAFF Ref: EL17/10265**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BURCOT LANE, BROMSGROVE

1. SUMMARY

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

Grade/Sub Grade	ha	% of site
1	18.8	30.5
2	9.3	15.1
3a	10.9	17.7
3b	18.9	30.7
4	1.2	2.0
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.8	1.3
Non agricultural	0.2	0.3
Open Water	0.2	0.3
Urban	1.3	2.1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b and Grade 4 is gradient (land greater than 7°) and/or soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 1993. 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 61.6 ha site is situated to the east of Bromsgrove and is bisected by Burcot Lane. The land immediately to the north and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, whilst the land to the south and west is used as a golf course and residential dwellings respectively.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad hoc development proposal for golf course.
- 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 grass, cereals, orchard and soft fruits.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	729mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1349 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days	171 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	91 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	79mm

4. SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 Gradient imposes a limitation on the agricultural use of the land to the south of Burcot Lane and near Cottage Farm and Crows Mill where the gradient exceeds 7°.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (Bromsgrove Sandstone) - British Geological Survey Sheet 183 Redditch 1:50000.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 18.8 ha (30.5%) of the survey area and is found in the vicinity of Ashboroughs Farm buildings and Burcot Lane.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam topsoil overlying a sandy loam to depth with few or no stones within the profile. Occasionally the lower subsoil (below 80cm) may be lighter or heavier.

6.1.2 There is no limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

6.2 Grade 2 - occupies 9.3 ha (15.1%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of the site.

- 6.2.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam, or sandy clay loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Occasionally clay may be encountered below 80cm.
- 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3a - occupies 10.9 ha (17.7%) of the survey area and is found in close proximity to the reservoirs and the periphery of the site.
 - 6.3.1 These shallow soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam topsoil overlying loamy sand and sand to between 50 and 80cm where solid bedrock is encountered with few or no stones within the profile.
 - 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is soil droughtiness.
- 6.4 Subgrade 3b - occupies 18.9 ha (30.7 %) of the survey area and is found to the south of Burcot Lane and in isolated places to the north of the Lane where gradient exceeds 7°.
 - 6.4.1 These soils consist of two types. Firstly there are the profiles which typically have a clay loam topsoil overlying a subsoil of clay which forms a slowly permeable layer or secondly profiles which have a sandy loam topsoil over sandy loam to 40cm where bedrock is encountered.
 - 6.4.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land include gradient, soil wetness on clay soils and soil droughtiness on sandy soils.
- 6.5 Grade 4 - occupies 1.2 ha (2.0 %) of the survey area and is found in the low lying area next to the stream south of Burcot Lane.
 - 6.5.1 These soils typically have a clay loam topsoil overlying a mixed clay loam subsoil with the water table at the surface.
 - 6.5.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this soil is wetness.
- 6.6 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.8 ha (1.3%) of the survey area. Non-agricultural - occupying 0.2 ha (0.3%) of the survey area - urban covering 1.3 ha (2.1 %) of the survey area as roads and home and open water which occupies 0.2 ha (2.1 %) of the survey area.

7. SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in hectares	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
1	18.8	30.5	31.8
2	9.3	15.1	15.7
3a	10.9	17.7	18.5
3b	18.9	30.7	32.0
4	1.2	2.0	2.0
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.8	1.3	
Non agricultural	0.2	0.3	
Open water	0.2	0.3	
Urban	1.3	2.1	
Totals	61.6	100	100

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