

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 916c - WEST HAGLEY**

**R D Metcalfe
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0389
Job No: 107/94
MAFF Ref: EL 17/00089**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 916c WEST HAGLEY**

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
1	3.3	18
2	10.9	58
3a	0.6	3
3b	0.7	4
5	1.4	8
Other land		
Urban	1.6	9

- 1.2 There are no or very minor limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 1.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land in Grade 2 are either soil droughtiness or soil wetness.
- 1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.5 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b and Grade 5 is gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 1995. 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 18.5 ha site is situated at Hagley and lies to the south of the A491/A456 roundabout. The northern boundary is formed by the Kidderminster Road, eastern one by the A491 road and the southern boundary by a minor road Western Road. The western boundary of the site adjoins agricultural land and housing. The site is crossed by a drain leading to Gallows Brook.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Bromsgrove District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 scale 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.

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 scale 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 with some of the area being used for horse grazing. Part of the northern field had recently planted trees round its boundary.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 911801) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	747
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1358

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	172
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	78

4 SITE

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

4.2 Gradient imposes limitations on the agricultural use of some of the land within the site.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Lower Keuper Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 167 Dudley 1:50000.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 1 occupies 3.3 ha (18%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the northern part of the site and in an area to the south of the drain.**
 - 6.1.1 The soils have a medium sandy loam extending to either 120 cm depth or overlying loamy medium sand and clay below about 70 cm. The soils are placed in Wetness Class I and satisfy the moisture balance for Grade 1.**
 - 6.1.2 There are no or very minor limitations to the agricultural use of Grade 1 land.**
- 6.2 Grade 2 occupies 10.9 ha (58%) of the survey area and is found both to the north and south of the drain.**
 - 6.2.1 The soil has either a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying either loamy medium sand and sand or sandy clay loam and heavy clay loam. Where sandy textures are present the moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Where sandy clay loam or heavy clay loam subsoils are present these soils are placed into Wetness Class II.**
 - 6.2.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land includes soil droughtiness and soil wetness.**
- 6.3 Subgrade 3a occupies 0.6 ha (3%) of the survey area and is found at the north western boundary.**
 - 6.3.1 The soil has a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and sand at depth.**
 - 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.4 Subgrade 3b occupies 0.7 ha (4%) of the survey area and is found in the western part of the site.**
 - 6.4.1 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is the gradient which is about 9°.**
- 6.5 Grade 5 occupies 1.4 ha (8%) of the survey area and is found along the sides of the drain where gradients are in excess of 18°. Gradient is a main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.**
- 6.6 Other land includes housing and garden classified as urban area.**

6.7 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
1	3.3	18	19
2	10.9	58	64
3a	0.6	3	4
3b	0.7	4	4
5	1.4	8	9
Other land			
Urban	1.6	9	
Totals	18.5	100	100