

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN
BISHOP'S ITCHINGTON

The site which covers about 100 hectares in total was surveyed by the Resource Planning Group in August and September 1990. It comprises 5 blocks of land, the two largest being on the southern edge of Bishop's Itchington from Hambridge Road and the River Itchen in the east to Gaydon Road in the west. The 3 smaller blocks are on the west and north of the village. At the time of survey most of the land was in agricultural use, mainly permanent pasture for sheep, but with some beans, oilseed rape, sugar beet and cereals in the fields to the West of Gaydon Road and east of Station Road (B4451). Areas not in agricultural use include playing fields, ponds and woodland and the industrial units on Gaydon Road.

Climate

Average annual rainfall is 656 mm and the accumulated temperature over 0°C for the period January to June is 1385 day°C. There is no overall climatic limitation to the use of the land. The median duration of field capacity is 141 days. The balance between summer rainfall and evapotranspiration gives moisture deficits of 104 mm for winter wheat, and 94mm for potatoes. The growing season extends to about 250 days from late March to the end of November and the mean date of the last frost is late April.

Site

Altitude ranges from 80m along the River Itchen in the east to 120m to the west and north of Bishop's Itchington. Land to the north and south of the village is level or only gently sloping, steeper or more irregular slopes occur in the east and west. Slope is a major limiting factor immediately south of Hambridge

Road and alongside the river and slope and irregularity are limiting between Manor Farm and Manor Road.

Geology and Soils

The solid geology in this area comprises Blue Lias and Limestone which are found over most of the three southernmost blocks of land. This is overlain by Boulder Clay around Manor Farm and north of Bishop's Itchington. A small area of Alluvial drift deposits occurs alongside the river. The soils derived from these parent materials are heavy clay loams and clays, calcareous in places. Lighter sandy clay loams over clay are associated with the Boulder Clay.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3a. Most of the block of land to the north of the village has been mapped as Grade 3a, together with a small area (just over one field) between Plough Lane and Gaydon Road. Soils are lighter than elsewhere on this site with sandy clay loams and clay loams over clay at about 40cm. In places these soils are slightly stony. They are limited to this Grade by wetness (Class III).

Grade 3b. Most of the site is mapped as Grade 3b with heavy clay loams and clays over clay with a slowly permeable layer at about 27-30cm. Although calcareous in places these soils are restricted to this grade by wetness. In the east slopes of 7-9° restrict land to this Grade. Between Manor Farm and Manor Road soils are lighter but depth over rock is variable and the slopes of 6-7° are irregular with many changes in direction and angle of slope.

Area of land in each Grade

	Hectares	% of total area	% of agricultural area
Grade 3a	13.5	14	14
Grade 3b	81.6	82	86
NA	2.2	2	-
Urban	1.8	2	-
TOTAL	<u>99.1</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

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