

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT RIPPLE QUARRY.

### Introduction.

The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in May 1992. An agricultural land classification survey was undertaken and soils augered to a depth of 120cm where possible. The borings were based on a 100 metre grid, with supplementary auger borings and soil pits where necessary.

### Location, Altitude and Relief.

The site lies to the south of Ripple and is bounded by the M50 to the north and Ripple Brook to the east. The site slopes gently from east to west with a small ridge formation running north west, south east down the central area of the larger site. Slope though is not a limiting factor on this site. The land lies at an altitude of between 10 and 15 metres.

### Climate and Rainfall.

The main parameters used in the assesment of the climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature (ATO). For this site these figures are 642mm and 1501 C respectively, indicating no climatic limitation on this site. The field capacity days figure for the site is 139 days. The mean last frost occurs in late April.

### Geology and soils

The geology underlying the area is Mercia Mudstone and River Terrace deposits, overlain by sandy soils. The soils covering the site are variable although two main soil types are defined. The first consists of sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam overlying loamy medium sand and medium sand. The second has a medium clay loam or silty clay loam topsoil overlying clay.

### Land Use.

At the time of survey cereals were being grown over most of the site with some permanent pasture in the southern part of the site.

### Agricultural Classification.

Grade 3a is mapped over 18.4 hectares, and accounts for 29.9% of the site. Soils typically have a sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and medium sand. Soil droughtiness is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

Grade 3b is mapped over 32.4 hectares, and accounts for 52.6% of the site. Soils typically have a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and medium sand onto stone at c.40 cm. These soils tend to follow a slight ridge feature which runs down the centre of the larger site. Soil droughtiness is the main limitation to agricultural use of this land. To the western side of the site the soils have a medium clay loam texture overlying clay.

Grade 4 is mapped over 2 hectares, and accounts for 3.2% of the site. In these two areas the soils appear to have been disturbed and the ground surface is uneven, thus imposing a limitation on the use of agricultural machinery.

Non Agricultural Land is mapped over 8.3 hectares and accounts for 13.5% of the site. This forms a strip of land down the western side of the site covered by Osier beds.

Farm buildings account for 0.8% of the site area and cover 0.5 hectares.

### Summary.

Grade	Area (ha)	% of site
3a		
3b		
4		
Non Agricultural Land		
Farm Buildings		

**SITE: RIPPLE QUARRY**

1. **Location:** to south of Ripple, M50 to north and Ripple Brook to east.
2. **Grid Reference:** SO875364.
3. **Date of Survey:** 12 and 19 of May 1992.
4. **Geology:** Mercia Mudstone and River Terrace Deposits (sheet 216, Tewkesbury, 1:50000).
5. **Climatic Limitations:** None.
6. **Site Limitations:** Soil droughtiness is a limitation in the central area of the main site due to soil stone content. Micro relief is also a limiting factor on the site to the east of the dismantled railway.
7. **Agricultural Land Use:** cereals and permanent pasture.
8. **Agricultural Land Quality:**
  - Grade 3a:** Covering the north and eastern parts of the main site the soils are deep, sandy clay loam or medium sandy loam overlying loamy medium sand and medium sand.
  - Grade 3b:** Covering the southern and central part of the main site and the majority of the two smaller sites. Soils typically have medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand onto stone at 40cm. These soils tend to follow a slight ridge feature which runs down the centre of the larger site. Further towards the western side of the site the soils have a medium clay loam texture overlying clay.
  - Grade 4:** Covering two areas in the smaller site to the east of the dismantled railway. The land appears to have been disturbed and the ground surface is uneven, thus imposing a limitation on the use of agricultural machinery.
  - Non Agricultural Land:** Found down the western side of the site which is covered by Osier beds.
  - Farm Buildings.**