

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BRATTON, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

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**ADAS Ref : 25/RPT/0661
Job No : 048/94
MAFF Ref : EL 35/00008**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BRATTON, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

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
3a	40.2	60
3b	21.5	32
Other land		
Non-Agricultural	3.8	5.5
Agricultural Buildings	1.2	1.8
Urban	0.3	0.5
Open Water	0.1	0.2

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in July and 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 67.1 ha site is situated to the North of Admaston. The land immediately to the north is bounded by Rushmoor Lane and the western boundary immediately adjoins agricultural land. The land surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin District Local Plan.
- 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 cereals, grass, horticultural crops and potatoes.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (Grid Ref): SJ 630 140.

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	658
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day°C)	1418

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include :

Field Capacity Days (days)	142
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	101
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	90

4. SITE

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

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

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clay and sand and gravel, British Geological Survey Sheet 152 Shrewsbury 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture in the south of the site or clay loam texture in the north of the site.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 40.2 ha(60%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the south of the site.

6.1.1 The soils within this subgrade are of two distinct types.

6.1.2 Firstly, there are the soils with a sandy clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class III.

6.1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.1.4 Secondly, there are the soils to the south of Cheshire Coppice and Bratton Park which are generally lighter. The soil typically has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with subsoils being slightly stony in places. In the south west of the site topsoils may be a loamy sand in texture. The moisture balance places these soils into subgrade 3a.

6.1.5 The main limitation to the agricultural use is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 21.5 ha (32%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 1.2 ha (1.8 %) of the survey area and are found at Bratton and Moor Farm; Non Agricultural - occupying 3.8 ha (5.5 %) of the survey area mainly to the north of the site as a drainage system; urban - covering 0.3ha (0.5%) of the survey area as a residential housing adjacent to Moor Farm and open water covering 0.1 ha (0.2%) of the survey area.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	40.2	60	65
3b	21.5	32	35
Other land			
Non Agricultural	3.8	5.5	
Agricultural Buildings	1.2	1.8	
Urban	0.3	0.5	
Open water	0.1	0.2	
Totals	67.1	100	100