

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
COOMBE ABBEY COUNTRY PARK, COVENTRY**

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR COOMBE ABBEY COUNTRY PARK, COVENTRY

## 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	32.2	42.7
3b	36.8	48.7
Other land		
Non- Agricultural	6.5	8.6

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are soil droughtiness in the west and soil wetness to the east.
- 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 January 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 75.5 ha site is situated to the east of Coventry. The land immediately to the south of the B4027 is predominantly in agricultural use whilst land immediately to the north, east and west forms the grounds of Coombe Abbey itself.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal for a 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.

### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	671 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1397 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	153 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	101 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	91 mm

### 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 solid geology of the area is comprised of Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 169 Coventry 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary glacial sand and gravel and alluvium.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture along the ridge running centrally east to west through the site or have a clay loam texture to the north and south of the site.

## 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 32.2 ha (42.7%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north of the site as a band trending east to west. The soils within this grade are of two distinct types:
- 6.1.1 Firstly there are the soils which have a sandy loam topsoil texture over loamy sand and/or sand to depth with few stones within the profile.
  - 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
  - 6.1.3 Secondly there are the soils which have a sandy clay loam or clay loam topsoil over sandy clay loam and clay to depth. When the gleying and slowly permeable layer characteristics for these soils are examined in conjunction with the field capacity days for this site it can be concluded that these soils are of Wetness Class III.
  - 6.1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 36.8 ha (48.7%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the south of the site.
- 6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth with few stones within the profile. When the gleying and slowly permeable layer characteristics for these soils are examined in conjunction with the field capacity days for this site it can be concluded that these soils are of Wetness Class III and IV.
  - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.4 Other land includes non-agricultural land which occupies 6.5 ha (8.6%) of the survey area and is found near West Lodge and Highfield.

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	32.2	42.7	46.7
3b	36.8	48.7	53.3
Other land Non-Agricultural	6.5	8.6	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

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