

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HOOK FARM, TASLEY, BRIDGNORTH**

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

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0769
Job No: 185/95
MAFF Ref: EL 35/11176**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HOOK FARM, TASLEY, NR BRIDGNORTH

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
2	16.1	39
3a	11.1	27
3b	10.3	25
4	0.2	1
Other land	3.2	8

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are either soil wetness or in places gradient.
- 1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 is gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April 1996. 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 40.9 ha site is situated to the north west of Bridgnorth at Tasley and forms two blocks centred around The Hook farmstead. The land immediately to the north and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Part of the southern boundary adjoins housing, with the rest adjoining agricultural land. The western boundary adjoins a minor road.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a golf course proposal.
- 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 and grass, used for sheep and horse grazing.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO705945):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	693
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1405

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	165
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	98
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	87

4 SITE

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

4.2 Gradient limits the agricultural use of parts of the site close to The Hook Dingle and to the west of The Hook.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Clays, Shales and Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 167 Dudley 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture over heavy clay loam, clay, and in places loamy sand.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 16.1 ha (39%) of the survey area and is found in three separate blocks; the northern part close to St Mary's Cottage and to the north east and south west of The Hook.**
- 6.1.1** These soils typically have a medium clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and sandy clay loam to depth. Observations of gleying place the soil in Wetness Class II. Within the blocks to the north and east of The Hook shown as Grade 2, there are soils of Grade 1 quality but these are too scattered to map as discrete units.
- 6.1.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 11.1 ha (27%) of the survey area and is found mainly at the western boundary of the site at Tasley and the northern part of the site.**
- 6.2.1** The soil has a medium clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.
- 6.2.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 10.3 ha (25%) of the survey area and is found to the east of Brick Kiln Plantation, at the western boundary of the site and close to The Hook Dingle.**
- 6.3.1** The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.
- 6.3.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3.3** Gradients of up to 11° limit areas close to The Dingle and west of The Hook to Subgrade 3b.
- 6.3.4** The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is gradient.
- 6.4 Grade 4 - occupies 0.2 ha (1%) of the survey area and is found close to The Hook Dingle where there are gradients of 14°.**
- 6.4.1** The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is gradient.
- 6.5 Other land includes linear woodland which occupy 3.2 ha (8%) of the survey area.**

6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	16.1	39	43
3a	11.1	27	29
3b	10.3	25	27
4	0.2	1	1
Other land	3.2	8	
Totals	40.9	100	100