

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KNUTSFORD ROAD GOLF COURSE**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KNUTSFORD ROAD GOLF COURSE

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	32.0	98
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.7	2

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

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 1995. 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 32.7 ha site is situated to the north of Cranage between the A50 road and M6 Motorway. The western boundary is formed by a minor road and the eastern boundary by the A50 road. The north eastern boundary adjoins woodland and the southern boundary adjoins agricultural land.

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 fallow and grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 744696) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	770
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1396

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	181
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	92
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	80

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 Middle Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 110 Macclesfield 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of fluvio-glacial sand and gravel.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 32 ha (98 %) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a loamy medium sand texture overlying sand between 30-40 cm. In the eastern part of the site the soil has a sandy loam texture to about 35 cm overlying loamy medium sand and sand. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.7 ha (2%) of the survey area.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	32.0	98	100
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.7	2	-
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Totals	32.7	100	100
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