

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR POTATO PACKING,  
BRICK HILL FARM, HARLESCOTT LANE, SHREWSBURY  
Agricultural Land Classification**

**August and September 1993  
and February 1997**

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT  
FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR POTATO PACKING,  
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**SUMMARY**

1. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
3a	6.0	96.8
3b	0.2	3.2
Total Survey Area	6.2	100

2. The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a and Subgrade 3b is either soil wetness or soil droughtiness.

**INTRODUCTION**

3. The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in August and September 1993 and February 1997. 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).

4. The 6.2 ha site is situated to the north east of Shrewsbury and is bounded by the railway line in the east and an industrial estate in the south. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. An area of the site previously not visited has now been surveyed.

5. The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the ad hoc development proposal for Shrewsbury.

6. 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.

7. At the times of the survey the site was under permanent grass.

## CLIMATE

8. The following interpolated data are relevant for the site :

Factor	Units	Values
Grid Reference	N/A	SJ 508 165
Altitude	m, AOD	80
Accumulated Temperature	day °C	1397
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	673
Field Capacity Days	days	141
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	103
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	93

9. There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

## SITE

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

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

## GEOLOGY AND SOILS

12. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Upper Mottled Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheets 138 and 152 Wem and Shrewsbury 1 Inch respectively. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder clay, sand and gravel and alluvium.

13. The underlying geology influences the soils which generally have a clay loam or sandy clay loam texture over the site.

## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

14. Subgrade 3a occupies 6.0 ha (96.8%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site.

15. The soil typically has either a clay loam or sandy loam topsoil texture. The former overlies clay loam or sandy clay loam onto clay to depth whilst the latter overlies sandy clay loam onto sand to depth. The moisture balance places the sandier soils in Subgrade 3a whilst for the heavier profiles observations of gleying and depth to slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

16. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

17. Subgrade 3b occupies 0.2 ha (3.2%) of the survey area and is found in the north eastern part of the site.

18. The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and depth to slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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