

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN,
SITE 4 - TERNHILL AREA**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN, SITE 4 - TERNHILL AREA.**

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	7.0	100

- 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 October 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 7.0 ha site is situated to the south west of Market Drayton. The site is bounded by an airfield to the west, the A41 (T) Road to the north, a Youth Custody Centre to the south and the existing quarry to the east.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Shropshire Minerals 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 a fodder crop of turnips.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 650 305) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	697
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1385

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	156
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	94
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	81

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 Pebbly Red Sandstone and Conglomerate - British Geological Survey Sheet 138, Wem, 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary 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 7.0 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil has a loamy sand texture over sand to depth, with a few stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.2 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	7.0	100	100
Totals	7.0	100	100