

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LAND AT WYCHNOR BRIDGES
BARTON**

**Resource Planning Group
WOLVERHAMPTON
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT WYCHNOR BRIDGES BARTON

INTRODUCTION

The 79.8 ha site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in October 1992. An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey was undertaken using the guidelines laid down in the ALC Revised Guidelines/Criteria Booklet (MAFF, 1998).

LOCATION, ALTITUDE AND RELIEF

The site is situated south west of Catholme Farm between the A38 to the west and the Derby-Birmingham railway to the east. The River Trent forms the south west boundary.

The land lies at an altitude of 54m and is almost level. Altitude and relief are therefore non-limiting in the classification of the site.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

The main parameters used to assess climatic limitations are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of the overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (ATO), as a measure of the relative warmth of the locality. For this site the figures are 644mm and 1414°C respectively indicating that there are no climatic limitations on this site. The field capacity days are 142 with the last mean frost occurring in early May.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The solid geology is composed of Keuper Marl overlain by drift deposits of Alluvium in the south and the First Terrace Deposits in the north. The associated soils are typically moderately stony medium sandy loams over stony loamy medium sands over stony medium sands, and heavy or medium clay loams over clay over medium sand.

OTHER LIMITING FACTORS

The southern part of the site is usually flooded more than once in three years. According to information obtained from the National Rivers Authority, the flooding is for frequent long periods. This is a limiting factor preventing the land from being graded higher than Grade 4.

The site is irrigated which has resulted in many of the droughty soils being upgraded by one sub grade in the north, centre and east of the site.

LAND USE

At the time of the survey the western block was under cereal stubble, the eastern block under potatoes and the southern block under grass.

AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY

Grade 2

Land in this grade represents 34.8 ha and 43.6% of the site. This occurs as a large block in the north east of the site, with a smaller pocket located in the west at the edge of the site.

The soils are typically medium sandy loams over medium sandy loams over loamy medium sands over medium sands. The soil is limited by droughtiness and stoniness.

Grade 3a

Grade 3a land represents 22.4 ha and 28.1% of the site. It occurs as a large block along the western edge of the site with a small distinct pocket in the north east.

The soils are typically medium sandy loams over loamy medium sands over medium sands with droughtiness and stoniness being the main limitations. There are limited areas of sub grade 3b land within these areas where the main limitation is stoniness but these are too small to map separately at this scale.

Grade 4

Grade 4 land lies in the south west of the site and covers 15.8 ha (19.8% of the site). Soil profiles are mixed but typically heavier than the rest of the site being mainly medium or silty clay loams over sandy clay loams over sandy clay or; clay or clay loams over clay over medium sands. Lighter profiles occur near the edge of the flood plain. These are typically medium sandy loams over loamy medium sands over medium sands.

Flooding is the main limitation to the agricultural use of this land.

NON AGRICULTURAL LAND

Non agricultural land accounts for 5.1 ha and 6.4% of the site and is under woodland or marsh.

OTHER LAND

Other land accounts for 2.1% of the site covering 1.7 ha and is open water.

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