

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LAND AT ALDRIDGE ROAD, GREAT BARR**

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

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT ALDRIDGE ROAD, GREAT BARR

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that all the land is classified as Subgrade 3a.
- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is soil droughtiness.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 1994. The Agricultural Land Classification Survey was undertaken according to 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 13.2 ha site is situated to the north of the A4041 road and east of the B4152 road. The land to the north and west of the site is in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a golf academy development.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 scale with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate as the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of the survey the site was under cereals and partly in "set aside".

3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	723
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1301

- 3.2 There is an overall climatic limitation on the site of Grade 2.

- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	168
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	88
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	74

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 Bunter Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 168 Birmingham 1 Inch.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy texture and stony subsoil.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 13.2 ha (10%) of the survey area.
 - 6.1.1 The soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sand to depth with a very stony subsoil. 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/Subgrade	Area in hectares	% of survey area
3a	13.2	100

SURROUNDING LAND AT DOE BANK FARM

The land surrounding the golf course application (EL 46/10545) was surveyed in 1981 using the pre-1988 Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) system. The land was classified as Subgrade 3a.

The soils have a similar texture and stone content description to those found on the application site. The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land within the golf course application is soil droughtiness and the moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a.

From the previous survey work and the recent survey of the golf course application the surrounding land is likely to be classified as Subgrade 3a under the revised ALC system. There is no change in the grading of the 1981 survey.

Ruth Metcalfe
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton

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