

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**  
**THREE ELMS ROAD ( PROPOSED GOLF DRIVING RANGE )**  
**HEREFORD**

**M J W Wood**  
**Resource Planning Team**  
**ADAS Statutory Group**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON**

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## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR THREE ELMS ROAD ( PROPOSED GOLF DRIVING RANGE ), HEREFORD**

### **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
2	~ 7.5	94
Other Land		
Urban	~ 0.5	6

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 are topsoil stone content, soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

### **2. INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 1994. 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 ~8 ha site is situated to the north west of Hereford city centre. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land immediately to the south and east is occupied by a sports ground and urban development. There is a small orchard immediately to the west of Bonnington Drive ( south of the site ).

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal to Hereford City Council to construct a golf driving range.

2.4 At the request of the MAFF Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at 1: 10 000 scale 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 grass, which is traversed by a number of regularly used footpaths.

### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site ( SO 489 414 ):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	699
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1453

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)	105
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	97

### 4. SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro-relief and flooding are considered when classifying land. Information on flooding at Yazor Brook is limited and at the time of the survey there was no evidence available to warrant the downgrading of the land.

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

### 5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of Quaternary Till, Alluvium and landslip deposits ( British Geological Survey, Sheet 198 Hereford 1 : 50 000 ).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have either a sandy silt loam or a clay loam texture.

## 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies ~7.5 ha ( 57 % ) of the survey area and covers the majority of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium clay loam or sandy silt loam texture overlying clay loam ( with occasional sandy clay loam lenses ) to depth. Profiles are slightly stony in the topsoil and the subsoils are moderately stony. Observations of gleying place these soils in to either Wetness Class I or II. In the north east corner of the site ( near Yazor Brook ) the soil profiles have very stony subsoils and are limited to Grade 2 by the moisture balance. There are profiles of Grade 1 quality within this unit ( the south of the site ) but they are of an insufficient extent to map seperately.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are topsoil stone content ( greater than 2cm in size ), soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

6.2 Other land includes urban which occupies ~0.5 ha ( 6 % ) of the survey area and is found in the south east corner as housing.

**6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

<b>Grade/Subgrade</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>% of survey area</b>	<b>% of agricultural land</b>
2	~7.5	94	100
Other Land			
Urban	~0.5	6	
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<b>Totals</b>	~8.0	100	100
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