

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CHESHIRE MINERALS PLAN
SITE 26: WHITE MOSS (CONSTRUCTION SAND)**

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**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0038
Job No: 111/95
MAFF Ref: EL 06/10199**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
CHESHIRE MINERALS PLAN SITE 26:
WHITE MOSS (CONSTRUCTION SAND)**

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	4.0	93
3b	0.3	7

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 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 4.3 ha site is situated to the west of Alsager and to the east of the M6. The land immediately to the north of the site is in agricultural use. Sand is currently being extracted from land immediately to the west of the site. The southern end of the site is bound by the B5077 and a house occupies land immediately to the east of the site.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Cheshire minerals 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 permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 779547) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	763
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1374

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	181
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	89
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	76

4 SITE

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

4.2 Gradient limits the agricultural use of the land in the north west corner of the site, as slopes exceed 7°.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Red Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 123 Stoke-on-Trent 1 Inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4 ha (93%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.3 ha (7%) of the survey area and is found in the north west of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient. Slopes measuring 10° were found in this part of the site.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	4.0	93	93
3b	0.3	7	7
Totals	4.3	100.0	100.0