

**LAND AT PEDDIMORE, MINWORTH
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MAY 1996**

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT PEDDIMORE, MINWORTH

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	22.5	17.0
3a	63.2	47.6
3b	44.4	33.5
Other land	2.5	1.9

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are topsoil stone content and soil wetness.
- 1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in April 1996. 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 132.6 ha site is situated to the south east of Sutton Coldfield. The site is bounded to the west by the A38(T) road, and to the south by Walmley Lane, Hurst Green Farm and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal. The northern and eastern boundaries of the site abut agricultural land.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Birmingham City Council, major industrial sites study.
- 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 and beans, and part was to be sown to potatoes.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site SP 154 936:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	670
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1379

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)	99
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	88

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 Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 168, Birmingham, 1 inch. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary sands and gravels across the south west of the site.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture across the majority of the site. Soils across the south of the site are stony and have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 22.5 ha (17.0%) of the survey area and is found in the south eastern part of the site, to the east of Wishaw Lane.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy clay loam topsoil texture overlying either a sandy clay loam, sandy loam or heavy clay loam subsoil over sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam and occasionally clay to depth. Observations of gleying and depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils into Wetness Class II.

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

6.1.3 Within this Grade 2 land, isolated borings of Grade 1 and Subgrade 3a soils were identified, but these areas were too small to be mapped separately at this scale.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 63.2 ha (47.6%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 Across the south of the site, extending west of Wishaw Lane, up to The Bungalow, soils have sandy loam and clay loam textures with topsoil stone contents of up to 12%

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is topsoil stone content.

6.2.3 Across the remaining Sub-grade 3a land the soil has a clay loam topsoil texture over clay loam and clay to depth, with some profiles containing sandier horizons. Observations of gleying and depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils into Wetness Class III.

6.2.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 44.4 ha (33.5%) of the survey area and is found largely in the central north of the site, across a small area to the east of Wishaw Lane, at the north eastern boundary of the site and in a further small area along the southern boundary of the survey area south of Wishaw Lane.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a heavy clay loam topsoil texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.4 Other land occupies 2.5 ha (1.9%) of the survey area and comprises, metalled road surfaces and residential buildings.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	22.5	17.0	17.3
3a	63.2	47.6	48.6
3b	44.4	33.5	34.1
Other land	2.5	1.9	
Totals	132.6	100.0	100.0