

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
THE GROVE, RUSHWICK  
WORCESTER**

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR THE GROVE, RUSHWICK, WORCESTER

## 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	10.0	75.8
3a	1.8	13.6
3b	0.9	6.8
Other Land		
Open Water	0.4	3.0
Agricultural Buildings	0.1	<1.0

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

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 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 13.2 ha site is situated on the western outskirts of Worcester and is bounded to the south by the Worcester to Malvern Rail Line, to the east by residential development and to the north and west by agricultural land.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a planning application for a park and ride car park, retail store and petrol station.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10,000 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 survey half the site was sown to wheat, barley and sugar beet, the remaining area was under setaside.

### **3. CLIMATE**

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 823 542):

Average Annual Rainfall	649
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1469

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include

Field Capacity Days (days)	140
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	108
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	101

### **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 Triassic Keuper Marl (Soil Survey Record No. 76, Soils in Hereford and Worcester 1). This is overlain by Quaternary Fluvio-glacial Terrace Gravels.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which are either stony with a sandy loam texture overlying clay loam and occasionally clay to depth, or a clay loam texture over clay to depth.

### **6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 10.0 ha (75.8%) of the survey area and covers the majority of the site, with the exception of an area north of the western pool, and an area in the northwest of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy silt loam topsoil texture, overlying a sandy loam or sandy clay loam subsoil and occasionally clay to depth. The soils are slightly to moderately stony and the moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Over the west of this area the topsoil stone content limits the land to Grade 2.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil droughtiness and across the west of the site topsoil stone content.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 1.8 ha (13.6%) of the survey area and is found in the north west of the site.

6.2.1 These soils generally have a clay loam topsoil texture over a clay loam or sandy clay loam subsoil texture and clay to depth. The soils are slightly to moderately stony. These soils fall into Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 0.9 ha (6.8%) of the survey area and is found over a small area in the west of the site, north of the pool.

6.3.1 These soils typically have a clay loam topsoil texture overlying a heavy clay loam subsoil and clay to depth. These soils fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.4 Other land includes two fishing pools to the south of the site which occupy 0.4 ha (3.0%) of the survey area and an agricultural building which occupies 0.1 ha (less than 1.0%) of the site.

#### 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey area	% of Agricultural Land
2	10.0	75.8	78.7
3a	1.8	13.6	14.2
3b	0.9	6.8	7.1
Other land			
Open water	0.4	3.0	
Agricultural buildings	0.1	<1.0	
Totals	13.2	100.0	100.0

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