

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
LAND NORTH OF NORTON FARM**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
LAND NORTH OF NORTON FARM**

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
1	1.5	4.3
2	10.1	28.9
3a	12.6	36.0
Other land		
Urban	3.3	9.4
Non-agricultural	7.5	21.4

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 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 35.0 ha site is situated to the North of Bromsgrove and is bounded to the North by the M42. The land immediately to the south of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Bromsgrove District Local 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 and fallow following cereals and root crops.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (S0963728) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	723
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1360

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	171
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	93
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	80

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 Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 183 Redditch 1:50,000. This is overlain with deposits of Alluvial Fan and River Terrace Deposits.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 1.5 ha (4.3%) of the survey area.**
 - 6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sandy loam to depth, with few or no stones within the profile.**
- 6.2 Grade 2 - occupies 10.1 ha (28.9%) of the survey area.**
 - 6.2.1 The soil has sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.**
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.3 Subgrade 3a - occupies 12.6 ha (36.0%) of the survey area and occurs in three areas.**
 - 6.3.1 On the western side of the site the soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sand to depth. The subsoils are moderately to very stony and the moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a.**
 - 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
 - 6.3.3 South of the M42 the soil appears to have been disturbed, possibly from the burial of material from motorway construction. The soil typically has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand with many stones within the profile and the moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a. Within the topsoil the volume of stones greater than 2 cm diameter exceeds 10%, limiting these soils to Subgrade 3a.**
 - 6.3.4 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land are soil droughtiness and stoniness.**
 - 6.3.5 On the eastern side of the site soils typically have a sandy loam topsoil over loamy sand and sand with few stones in the profile. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a.**
 - 6.3.6 The main limitations of the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.4 Other land includes urban which occupies 3.3 ha (9.4%) of the survey area and mostly comprises land associated with the hospital. Non-agricultural land covers 7.5 ha (21.4%) of the survey area and mostly comprises playing fields.**

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
1	1.5	4.3	6.2
2	10.1	28.9	41.7
3a	12.6	36.0	52.1
Other land			
Urban	3.3	9.4	
Non-agricultural	7.5	21.4	
Totals	35.0	100.0	100.0