

PRIDDY ROAD FARM, GREEN ORE, SOMERSET**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION****RESULTS OF RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY****Introduction**

In December 1990 a reconnaissance Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) was carried out at Priddy Road Farm, Green Ore, Somerset, in response to a planning application made to Somerset County Council for a golf course.

67.4 ha were surveyed.

The field work was conducted by the Resource Planning Group at an approximate observation density of one auger boring per 5 hectares. A total of 13 borings were examined.

In March 1990 an ALC survey was carried out on adjacent land at Rookery Farm and soil pits dug on this survey are representative of the Priddy Road Farm site.

Agricultural Land Classification

The whole of the survey area has a climatic limitation which limits the grade to 3A (Table 1).

Although there is slight evidence of wetness across the site with common ochreous mottles there is no evidence of gleying or slowly permeable layers. The soils are therefore placed in wetness Class 1, with medium clay loam topsoils are grade 2. The climatic limitation is therefore greater. (These soils are also found in the area of 3A on the Rookery Farm Site). There are two areas where gradient is more limiting than climate. Both have variable slopes with gradients between 7° and 11° and 11° and 18°, so grades 3B and 4 have been mapped in this area.

Table 2 shows the distribution of grades in the survey area as a result of the reconnaissance survey.

Table 1 Climatic interpolation

Grid Reference	ST 56504	ST 571504
Height	265	230
Accumulated temperature (° days)	1257	1297
Average annual rainfall (mm)	1047	1053
Field capacity (days)	218	219
Moisture deficit wheat (mm)	58	61
Moisture deficit, potatoes (mm)	37	41
Overall climatic grade	3a	3a

Table 2 Distribution of ALC grades

Grade	Area Ha	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3A	58.3	86.5	95.0
3B	1.9	2.8	3.1
4	1.2	1.8	<u>1.9</u>
Fm Bdg	1.0	1.5	
Non Ag	<u>5.0</u>	<u>7.4</u>	100 (61.4 ha)
	67.4 ha	100	