

**SHROPSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN
CRAVEN ARMS
LAND SOUTH OF CLUN ROAD**

**Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Summary Report**

May 1999

Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA Wolverhampton

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT

SHROPSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN CRAVEN ARMS, LAND SOUTH OF CLUN ROAD

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 15.2 ha of land south of Clun Road, to the west of Craven Arms, Shropshire. The survey was carried out in March 1999.
2. The survey was undertaken by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)¹ on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). This survey was carried out in connection with MAFF's statutory input to the Shropshire Structure Plan. This survey supersedes any previous ALC information for this land.
3. The work was conducted by members of the Resource Planning Team in the Northern Region of FRCA. The land has been graded in accordance with the published MAFF ALC guidelines and criteria (MAFF, 1988). A description of the ALC grades and subgrades is given in Appendix I.
4. At the time of survey the site was under permanent pasture. Areas mapped as 'Other land' include farm buildings near the centre, and gardens to the west of the site.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10 000. It is accurate at this scale but any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% Total agricultural land area	% Total survey area
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3a	-	-	-
3b	14.2	97	93
4	0.4	3	3
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	-	-	-
Other land	0.6	-	4
Total agricultural land area	14.6	100	-
Total survey area	15.2	-	100

¹ FRCA is an executive agency of MAFF and the Welsh Office

7. The fieldwork was conducted at an average density of 1 boring per hectare of agricultural land. A total of 15 borings and 1 soil pit was described.
8. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3b (moderate quality), and Grade 4 (poor quality). The principal limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil wetness, gradient and microrelief.
9. Land of moderate quality (Subgrade 3b) is found across the site. Gradient imposes an overriding agricultural limitation where slopes are between 7 and 11°. Soils comprise silt loam and medium silty clay loam topsoils, overlying medium clay loam, medium silty clay loam and heavy clay loam upper subsoils. Generally clay content increases with depth, and lower subsoils comprise of medium clay loam, heavy clay loam, heavy silty clay loam, clay and silty clay textures. Soil wetness is the principal limitation to the agricultural use of this land.
10. Land of poor quality (Grade 4) is found in several locations, where gradients over 11°, and microrelief impose overriding limitations to the agricultural use of this land.

APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1: Excellent Quality Agricultural Land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2: Very Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural or horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land of this grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1 land.

Grade 3: Good to Moderate Quality Land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, the timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. When more demanding crops are grown, yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a: Good Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops.

Subgrade 3b: Moderate Quality Agricultural Land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally cereals and grass, or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year.

Grade 4: Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or the level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5: Very Poor Quality Agricultural Land

Land with severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops.

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SAMPLE NO.	GRID REF	ASPECT USE	GRDNT		--WETNESS--		-WHEAT-		-POTS-		M.REL		EROSN	FROST	CHEM	ALC	COMMENTS
			SPL	CLASS	GRADE	AP	MB	AP	MB	DRT	FLOOD	EXP	DIST	LIMIT			
1	S042708270	PGR NW	01	022	2	3A	108	17	116	39	2				WE	3A	<i>near 7.</i>
1P	S042808260	PGR S		024 033	4	3B	089	-2	094	17	3A				WE	3B	
2	S042808270	PGR NW	08	028	2	3A	078	-13	078	1	3A				GR	3B	
3	S042408260	PGR NW		020 038	4	3B	124	33	113	36	1				WE	3B	
4	S042508260	PGR NW		024 036	4	3B	126	35	105	28	1				WE	3B	
4A	S042528267	ZL NW		031 046	4	3B	110	19	118	41	2				WE	3B	
5	S042608260	PGR NW		027 045	4	3B	111	20	120	43	2				WE	3B	
5A	S042698265	PGR NW		027 040	4	3B	105	14	114	37	2				WE	3B	
6	S042708260	PGR NW	01	026 037	4	3B	113	22	096	19	2				WE	3B	
6A	S042658253	PGR S		030 065	3	3A	125	34	116	39	1				WE	3A	SPL 3B
8	S042908260	PGR S	01	028 068	3	3A	124	33	127	50	1				WE	3A	
9	S043008260	PGR S	06	020 036	4	3B	095	4	101	24	3A				WE	3B	? 3a.
10	S043108260	PGR S	10	025 040	4	3B	102	11	111	34	2				WG	3B	
11	S042908250	PGR S	01	023 050	4	3B	131	40	122	45	1				WE	3B	
12	S043008250	PGR S	01	023	2	3A	104	13	109	32	2				WE	3A	
13	S043108250	PGR S	01	025 045	4	3B	093	2	102	25	3A				WE	3B	

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SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	MOTTLES			PED COL.	STONES			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS						
				COL	ABUN	CONT		GLEYS	>2	>6		LITH	TOT	STR	POR	IMP	SPL	CALC
1	0-22	z1	25Y 42 00	10YR46	00	F		1	0	HR	1							
	22-37	mzc1	25Y 63 00	10YR56	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	1		M				
	37-55	mzc1	25Y 63 00	10YR56	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	1		M				
	55-65	mc1	25Y 63 00	10YR56	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	40		M				
1P	0-24	z1	10YR42	00				0	0	HR	3							
	24-33	mc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	3	WK CAB	FM	P			
	33-60	hc1	25Y 63 00	10YR68	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	10	WK CPR	FM	P	Y		Y
2	0-28	mzc1	10YR42	00				0	0	HR	1							
	28-45	mzc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	C	Y	0	0	HR	15		M				
3	0-20	z1	10YR32	00				0	0	HR	2							
	20-38	mzc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	2		M				
	38-100	zc	25Y 52 00	10YR56	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	2		P	Y			Y
4	0-24	mzc1	10YR41	00	10YR56	00	C		0	0	HR	2						
	24-36	hzc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0		0		M				
	36-120	c	10YR52	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	10		P	Y			Y
4A	0-31	z1	10YR32	00				0	0	HR	2							
	31-46	mzc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	C	Y	0	0	HR	5		M				
	46-65	c	10YR53	00	10YR68	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	2		P	Y			Y
5	0-27	z1	10YR32	00				0	0	HR	2							
	27-45	hzc1	10YR53	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	2		M				
	45-70	zc	10YR52	00	10YR56	00	M	Y	0	0	HR	2		P	Y			Y
5A	0-27	z1	10YR32	00				0	0		0							
	27-40	mzc1	25Y 53 00	10YR56	00	C		Y	0	0		0		M				
	40-55	hzc1	25Y 53 00	10YR68	00	M		Y	0	0		0		P	Y			Y
	55-70	hzc1	25Y 53 00					Y	0	0	HR	40		P	Y			Y
6	0-26	mzc1	10YR42	00				0	0	HR	5							
	26-37	mc1	75Y 53 00	10YR66	00	C		Y	0	0	HR	10		M				
	37-65	hc1	25Y 53 00	10YR66	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	20		P	Y			Y
	65-110	hc1	25Y 63 00	10YR66	00	M		Y	0	0	HR	10		P	Y			Y

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SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	-----MOTTLES-----			PED COL.	-----STONES-----			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS				
				COL	ABUN	CONT		GLY	>2	>6		LITH	TOT	STR	POR	IMP
6A	0-30	mc1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	1					
	30-45	mzc1	10YR53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0	HR	5		M		
	45-65	hc1	10YR53 00 10YR56 00 F					Y	0	0		0		M		
	65-100	hc1	10YR43 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0		0		P	Y	Y
8	0-28	z1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	3					
	28-56	mzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0	HR	3		M		
	56-68	mzc1	10YR63 00 10YR68 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	20		M		
	68-75	hzc1	10YR62 00 10YR68 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	20		P	Y	Y
	75-85	c	10YR62 00 10YR68 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	20		P	Y	Y
9	0-20	z1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	2					
	20-36	mzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	2		M		
	36-60	hzc1	25Y 44 00 10YR56 00 M					Y	0	0		0		P	Y	Y
10	0-25	z1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	2					
	25-40	mzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0	HR	2		M		
	40-65	hzc1	25Y 44 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0		0		P	Y	Y
11	0-23	z1	25Y 42 00					0	0	HR	1					
	23-37	mzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0		0		M		
	37-50	mzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 M					Y	0	0		0		M		
	50-105	hzc1	25Y 53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0		0		P	Y	Y
12	0-23	z1	10YR32 00					0	0		0					
	23-47	mc1	10YR53 00 10YR56 00 C					Y	0	0		0		M		
	47-65	mc1	10YR42 00					Y	0	0	HR	40		M		
13	0-25	mzc1	10YR42 00					2	0	HR	2					
	25-45	hzc1	75YR63 00 10YR63 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	15		M		
	45-70	zc	75YR63 00 10YR56 00 M					Y	0	0	HR	15		P	Y	Y

7?
25Y463
or
75YR63.