

NEW RUGBY PITCHES FOR LYMM RUFC
Agricultural Land Classification

V P Redfern
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0796
Job No: 044/96
MAFF Ref: EL06/11298
LUPU Com: WO2085

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
NEW RUGBY PITCHES FOR LYMM RUFC**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
3a	3.7	79
3b	1.0	21

Total Survey Area	4.7	100
-------------------	-----	-----

- 1.2 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 September 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 4.7 ha site is situated to the south of Lymm. The land immediately to the north and east of the site is in agricultural use. The site is bounded to the south by woodland.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the ad hoc development proposal for a new rugby pitch.
- 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 ley grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 683 863) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	835
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1401

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	197
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	88
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	75

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 Sandstone and Keuper Waterstones - British Geological Survey Sheet 98 Stockport 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder Clay.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 3.7 ha (79%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil comprises clay loam or sandy clay loam texture over clay loam to depth, or with clay in the lower subsoil. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 1.0 ha (21%) of the survey area and is found to the north of the site on the hilltop.

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

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

6.3 The land immediately to the east of the site is part of the same field. This area is likely to be predominantly Subgrade 3a with some Subgrade 3b on the northern boundary. The land to the north of the site is likely to have Subgrade 3a on the lower slopes with Subgrade 3b on the upper slopes.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Other Land	Area (hectares)	% of surveyed area
3a	3.7	79
3b	1.0	21
Total Survey Area	4.7	100

SOIL RESOURCES REPORT

NEW RUGBY PITCHES FOR LYMM RUFC

1.1 The soils on the site were examined using a Dutch auger, at a detailed survey scale of 1:10 000, with a minimum boring density of 1 per hectare.

1.2 The soils have been divided into three Soil Units on the basis of the survey. A pit profile has been described to characterise Unit 1, the other units being characterised from auger borings.

1.3 Unit 1:

These soils typically comprise about 26 cms of medium clay loam topsoil overlying medium clay loam and clay. A typical profile for this unit is as follows:

0-26 cm. Dark greyish brown (10YR4/2), stoneless, medium clay loam, common roots.

26-58 cm. Pale brown (10YR6/3), brownish yellow (10YR6/8) common mottles, very slightly stony, medium clay loam, few roots.

58-80 cm. Reddish brown (05YR4/4), strong brown (75YR5/6) common mottles, stoneless, clay, firm moderately developed medium prismatic, porosity < 0.5%, no roots.

1.4 Unit 2.

These soils typically comprise about 33 cms of sandy clay loam topsoil overlying sandy clay loam or sandy loam subsoil with weathered parent material encountered at between 60 cms and 80 cms. A typical profile for this unit is as follows:

0-34 cm. Dark greyish brown (10YR4/2), stoneless sandy clay loam.

34-52 cm Pale brown (10YR6/3), yellowish brown (10YR5/6) common mottles, stoneless, medium sandy loam.

52-62 cm Reddish brown (05YR4/3), medium clay loam, grading into reddish brown weathered parent material.

1.5 Unit 3

The soils in this unit typically comprise about 36 cms of sandy clay loam topsoil overlying clay. A typical profile for this unit is as follows:

0-36 cm. Dark greyish brown (10YR4/2), stoneless, sandy clay loam.

36-40 cm. Brown (10YR5/3), brownish yellow (10YR6/8) many mottles, stoneless, clay.

40-60 cm. Brown (75YR5/3), strong brown (75YR5/6) common mottles, stoneless clay.

1.6 Summary of Soil Units

Unit	Area	% of site
1	2.4	51
2	1.3	28
3	1.0	21
Total	4.7	100