

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

LICHFIELD LOCAL PLAN

FRADLEY

1. Summary

The Fradley site comprises 95 ha of land of which 42 ha are in agricultural use. All of the agricultural land has been classified as sub-grade 3a. The soils are loamy sands and sands and droughtiness is the major agricultural limitation. Woodland occupies 32% of the site and urban land 15% of the site.

2. Introduction

The Fradley site is located approximately 2 km west of the village of Fradley. It is bounded to the west by the Trent and Mersey Canal, to the north by the Coventry Canal and to the east by a disused airfield. The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in July 1993 to provide information for the Lichfield Local Plan. A grid survey method was used at a scale of 1:25 000 with a sampling density of 1 per 4 hectares. Final mapping was at a scale of 1:25 000 and enlargements of the map would not be accurate.

At the time of survey the agricultural land use was ley grassland and pasture, potatoes, oilseed rape, cereals and fallow.

3. Climate

The average altitude of the site is 65m and the average annual rainfall within the vicinity of the site is 682 mm. The accumulated temperature above 0°C for January to June is 1400 day °C. There are no climatic limitations to the agricultural use of the site.

4. Site

The site is almost level with no distinctive relief features. There are no slope or other relief limitations to the agricultural use of the site.

5. Geology and Soil

The geology of the site consists of old river gravels. The soils developed on this material have a sandy texture, are moderately stony and well drained. The topsoils are very dark greyish brown, medium sandy loams with a moderately high stone content.

The subsoil consists of stony loamy sand over slightly stony sandy clay loam. The soils are slightly droughty, however the major limiting factor for agricultural use is the stoniness of the topsoil.

The soils are uniform over the site except for a field in the south-east of the site between Orgreave Gorse Farm and the urban land. The land appears to have been reclaimed from urban use and the soils consist of brown, loamy sand over dark brown sandy loam and are slightly stony. However the soils are impenetrable below 80 cm and the major limitation to agricultural use is droughtiness.

6. *Agricultural Land Classification*

6.1 Sub-grade 3a

All of the agricultural land on the site falls within this grade. The major limitation to agricultural use on the site is topsoil stone content. Within the sub-grade 3a land there are isolated areas of grade 2 land which are too small to be mapped at this scale.

6.2 Other land

Woodland occupies 32% of the site and consists of mature deciduous and coniferous species. Urban land covers 14% of the site and consists of former aircraft hangars now converted for industrial use. The non-agricultural land consists of areas of cleared woodland now in rough grassland.

7. Statistics

Grade/ Sub-grade	Area (ha)	% of Total Land	% of Agricultural Land
3a	42.3	44.4	100
Woodland	30.4	13.9	
Urban	13.3	31.9	
Non-Agricultural	7.6	8.0	
Agricultural buildings	0.8	0.9	
Not surveyed	0.9	0.9	
Total Area	95.3		
Total Agricultural Area	42.3		

**RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
ADAS Wolverhampton
July 1993**

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