

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CHESHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
SITE 21: CORBISHLEY FARM (CONSTRUCTION SAND)**

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**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0038
Job No: 109/95
MAFF Ref: EL 06/10199**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
CHESHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN SITE 21:
CORBISHLEY FARM (CONSTRUCTION SAND)**

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
2	40.0	94
Other land	2.5	6

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 include soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 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 42.5 ha site is situated to the south west of Alderley Edge. The land immediately to the north, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Land immediately to the south of the site is under woodland.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Cheshire Minerals 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, cereals and fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 828 757) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	815
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1363

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	199
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	83
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	69

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 Marl and Keuper Saliferous Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 98 Stockport 1:50 000. This is overlain by deposits of Boulder Clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture or sandy clay loam texture over the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 40.0 ha (94%) of the survey area and is found over the whole of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness, although soil wetness becomes the main limitation in occasional profiles where sandy clay loam and clay are present.

6.1.3 Isolated profiles of Grade 1 and Subgrade 3a land are found over the site but these areas are too small to be mapped at this scale.

6.2 Other land includes agricultural buildings, tracks and a feed suppliers, and occupies 2.5 ha (6%) of the survey area.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	40.0	94	100
Other land	2.5	6	-
Totals	42.5	100	100