AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
MUXTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN, MUXTON

1.0 SUMMARY

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

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
2	7.5	81
3b	1.8	19

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is soil wetness.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 1994. An ALC 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 9.3 ha site lies on the eastern edge of Muxton village. It is bounded to the west and north by housing and to the east and south by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin District Local Plan.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1 : 10,000 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 survey the site was predominantly under grass. The northern part of the site had recently been spread with farmyard manure following the harvesting of cereals.

3.0 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site, (Grid Ref: SJ719144):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	684
Accumulated Temperature above 0° C for January to June (day °C)	1393

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for agricultural land classification are:

Field Capacity Days (days)	155
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	98
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86

4.0 SITE

4.1 When classifying land, three site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, microrelief and flooding.

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

5.0 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area consists of Upper Coal Measures and Etruria Marl (British Geological Survey Sheet 153, Wolverhampton, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consist predominantly of clay loam and occasional sandy loam textured topsoils over clay loam and clay.

6.0 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 7.5 ha (81%) of the survey area and occurs on the western side of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam or sandy loam texture over clay loam with clay at depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 1.8 ha (19%) of the survey area and occurs along the eastern side of the site adjacent to a stream.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay. The clay forms a slowly permeable layer at about 35 cm placing these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6. Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/sub-grade	Area (ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
2	7.5	81	81
3b	1.8	19	19
Totals	9.3	100	100

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