

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
COVENTRY COLLIERY, KERESLEY**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR COVENTRY COLLIERY, KERESLEY

1. 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	12.2	17.3
3a	17.4	24.7
3b	19.5	27.6
Other land		
Non - agricultural	3.2	4.5
Urban	18.1	25.6
Open water	0.2	0.3

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 70.6 ha site is situated to the north of Coventry. It is bounded to the south by a private railway line and to the west by a colliery. The land is bounded to the north by a road and to the east by agricultural land.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a proposal for a car storage area.
- 2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1 : 25 000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per 4 hectares. 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 agricultural land on the site was predominantly under grass with a small area in the south east under cereals and some fields lying fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	694
Accumulated Temperature above 0° C for January to June (day °C)	1344

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)	96
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	85

4 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 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area consists of Red Sandstone and Marls overlain by Boulder Clay and Sands and Gravels, (British Geological Survey Sheet 169, 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 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 12.2 ha (17.3 %) of the survey area and occurs in the east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture over sandy clay loam with clay at depth.

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

6.2 Sub -grade 3a occupies 17.4 ha (24.7 %) of the survey area and occurs mainly as a broad band across the centre of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and clay. The subsoils are gleyed within 40 cm of the surface and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer at about 60 cm.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b occupies 19.5 ha (27.6 %) of the survey area and occurs north and south of the band of Subgrade 3a.

6.3.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay. The clay forms a slowly permeable layer at about 35 cm.

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

6.4 Urban land occupies 18.1 ha (25.6 %) and mostly comprises land associated with the colliery and the railway. Non - agricultural land occupies 3.2 ha (4.5 %) and mostly comprises allotments and part of a playing field.

6.5 Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/ sub - grade	Area (ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
2	12.2	17.3	24.9
3a	17.4	24.7	35.4
3b	19.5	27.6	39.7
Other land			
Urban	18.1	25.6	
Non - agricultural	3.2	4.5	
Open water	0.2	0.3	
Totals	70.6	100.0	100.0

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