Longbridge

Agricultural Land Classification

February 1998

Resource Planning Team
Bristol
FRCA Western Region

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LONGBRIDGE

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

1 This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 27 5 ha of land at Longbridge Field survey was based on 17 auger borings and 2 soil profile pits and was completed in December 1997 During the survey 2 samples were analysed for particle size distribution (PSD)

2 The survey was conducted by the Resource Planning Team of FRCA Western Region on behalf of MAFF in its statutory role in the preparation of the Warwickshire Structure Plan

3 Information on climate geology and soils and from previous ALC surveys was considered and is presented in the relevant section Apart from the published regional ALC map (MAFF 1977) which shows the site at a reconnaissance scale as wholly grade 2 the site was previously surveyed in 1989 at a scale of 1 10000 (ADAS 1989) However the current survey uses the Revised Guidelines and Criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF 1988) and supersedes any previous ALC survey Grade descriptions are summarised in Appendix I

4 At the time of survey land cover was cereals and permanent grassland An area of agricultural land within the survey area was not surveyed because access could not be obtained from Severn Trent Water Authority however this land has been graded on the basis of the previous 1989 survey results Other land which was not surveyed included Severn Trent Headquarters farm buildings small industrial units and a tree nursery

SUMMARY

5 The distribution of ALC grades is shown on the accompanying 1 10000 scale ALC map The detail of information shown at this scale is appropriate to the intensity of field survey but could be misleading if enlarged or applied to small areas Areas are summarised in the Table 1

Table 1 Distribution of ALC grades Longbridge

Grade	Area (ha)	% Surveyed Area (17 2ha)
3a	17 2	100
Other land	10 3	
Total site area	27 5	

6 The agricultural land across the site has been wholly graded as subgrade 3a The soils have moderate limitations to their agricultural use due to soil droughtiness

CLIMATE

7 Estimates of climatic variables for this site were derived from the published agricultural climate dataset Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification (Meteorological Office 1989) using standard interpolation procedures Data for key points around the site are given in Table 2 below

8 Since the ALC grade of land is determined by the most limiting factor present overall climate is considered first because it can have an overriding influence by restricting land to a lower grade despite more favourable site and soil conditions Parameters used for assessing overall climate are accumulated temperature a measure of relative warmth and average annual rainfall a measure of overall wetness The results shown in Table 2 indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation

9 Climatic variables also affect ALC grade through interactions with soil conditions The most important interactive variables are Field Capacity Days (FCD) which are used in assessing soil wetness and potential Moisture Deficits calculated for wheat and potatoes which are compared with the moisture available in each profile in assessing soil droughtiness limitations These are described in later sections

Table 2 Climatic Interpolations Longbridge

Grid Reference		SP 272 625
Altitude (m)		46
Accumulated Temperature (day C)		1441
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)		627
Overall Climatic Grade		1
Field Capacity Days		139
Moisture deficit (mm)	Wheat	109
—	Potatoes	101

RELIEF

10 Altitude ranges from 45 metres at Longbridge Farm to 46 metres in the west of the site The site is generally level

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

11 The underlying geology of the site is shown on the published geology map (BGS 1984 as River Terrace Deposits with alluvium along the brook from Home Farm In the recent survey the soils were found to be light stony and in many cases passing onto gravels at depth

12 Soils were mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales at a reconnaissance scale of 1 250 000 (SSEW 1983) as wholly the Wick 1 soil association

13 The Wick 1 soil association is described as having deep well drained coarse loamy soils

14 The recent survey found the soils to be largely well drained sandy loams overlying variably stony sandy clay loams or loamy sands generally passing onto gravels

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

15 The distribution of ALC grades found by the current survey is shown on the accompanying 1 10000 scale map and areas are summarised in Table 1 The detail of information shown at this scale is appropriate to the intensity of field survey but could be misleading if enlarged or applied to small areas

Subgrade 3a

16 The agricultural land at Longbridge has been identified as good quality agricultural land The soils were described as having medium sandy loam topsoils which overlay variably stony loamy sands or sandy clay loam subsoils in the majority of profiles examined the subsoils passed onto gravels with depth Two soil profile pits confirmed the soils as well drained but with a moderate drought limitation

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February 1998

REFERENCES

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BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY/INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (1984) Sheet 184 Warwick 1 50 000 series Solid and Drift edition BGS London

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METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE (1989) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification Meteorological Office Bracknell

SOIL SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES (1983) Sheet 3 Soils of Midland and Western England 1 250 000 scale SSEW Harpenden

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APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1 excellent quality agricultural land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly include top fruit soft fruit salad crops and winter harvested vegetables Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality

Grade 2 very good quality agricultural land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield cultivations or harvesting A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1

Grade 3 good to moderate quality agricultural land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops timing and type of cultivation harvesting or the level of yield Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2

Subgrade 3a good quality agricultural land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops especially cereals or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals grass oilseed rape potatoes sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops

Subgrade 3b moderate quality agricultural land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year

Grade 4 poor quality agricultural land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (eg cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable In most climates yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation The grade also includes very droughty arable land

Grade 5 very poor quality agricultural land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing except for occasional pioneer forage crops

Source MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land MAFF Publications Alnwick

APPENDIX II

DEFINITION OF SOIL WETNESS CLASSES

Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile

Wetness Class I

The soil profile is not wet within 70 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years

Wetness Class II

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 31 90 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 70 cm for more than 90 days but not wet within 40 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years

Wetness Class III

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 91 180 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 70 cm for more than 180 days but only wet within 40 cm depth for between 31 and 90 days in most years

Wetness Class IV

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91 210 days in most years

Wetness Class V

The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for 211 335 days in most years

Wetness Class VI

The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for more than 335 days in most years

Notes The number of days specified is not necessarily a continuous period

In most years is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years

Source Hodgson J M (Ed) (1997) Soil Survey Field Handbook Soil Survey Technical Monograph No 5 Silsoe

APPENDIX III

ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN SURVEY DATA

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC survey is held on a computer database and is reproduced in this report Terms used and abbreviations are set out below These conform to definitions contained in the Soil Survey Field Handbook (Hodgson 1997)

1 Terms used on computer database in order of occurrence

GRID REF National 100 km grid square and 8 figure grid reference

LAND USE At the time of survey

WHT	Wheat	**SBT**	Sugar Beet	**HTH**	Heathland
BAR	Barley	**BRA**	Brassicas	**BOG**	Bog or Marsh
OAT	Oats	**FCD**	Fodder Crops	**DCW**	Deciduous Wood
CER	Cereals	**FRT**	Soft and Top Fruit	**CFW**	Coniferous Woodland
MZE	Maize	**HRT**	Horticultural Crops	**PLO**	Ploughed
OSR	Oilseed Rape	**LEY**	Ley Grass	**FLW**	Fallow (inc Set aside)
POT	Potatoes	**PGR**	Permanent Pasture	**SAS**	Set Aside (where known)
LIN	Linseed	**RGR**	Rough Grazing	**OTH**	Other
BEN	Field Beans	**SCR**	Scrub		

GRDNT Gradient as estimated or measured by hand held optical clinometer

GLEY SPL Depth in centimetres to gleying or slowly permeable layer

AP (WHEAT/POTS) Crop adjusted available water capacity

MB (WHEAT/POTS) Moisture Balance (Crop adjusted AP crop potential MD)

DRT Best grade according to soil droughtiness

If any of the following factors are considered significant Y will be entered in the relevant column

MREL	Microrelief limitation	**FLOOD**	Flood risk	**EROSN**	Soil erosion risk
EXP	Exposure limitation	**FROST**	Frost prone	**DIST**	Disturbed land
CHEM	Chemical limitation				

LIMIT The main limitation to land quality The following abbreviations are used

OC	Overall Climate	**AE**	Aspect	**EX**	Exposure
FR	Frost Risk	**GR**	Gradient	**MR**	Microrelief

FL	Flood Risk	**TX**	Topsoil Texture	**DP**	Soil Depth
CH	Chemical	**WE**	Wetness	**WK**	Workability
DR	Drought	**ER**	Erosion Risk	**WD**	Soil Wetness/Droughtiness
ST	Topsoil Stoniness				

TEXTURE Soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations

S	Sand	**LS**	Loamy Sand	**SL**	Sandy Loam
SZL	Sandy Silt Loam	**CL**	Clay Loam	**ZCL**	Silty Clay Loam
ZL	Silt Loam	**SCL**	Sandy Clay Loam	**C**	Clay
SC	Sandy clay	**ZC**	Silty clay	**OL**	Organic Loam
P	Peat	**SP**	Sandy Peat	**LP**	Loamy Peat
PL	Peaty Loam	**PS**	Peaty Sand	**MZ**	Marine Light Silts

For the sand loamy sand sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of the following prefixes

F Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0 2mm)
M Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)
C Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0 6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub divided according to the clay content **M** Medium (< 27% clay) **H** heavy (27 35% clay)

MOTTLE COL Mottle colour using Munsell notation

MOTTLE ABUN Mottle abundance expressed as a percentage of the matrix or surface described

F few <2% **C** common 2 20% **M** many 20 40% **VM** very many 40%+

MOTTLE CONT Mottle contrast

F faint indistinct mottles evident only on close inspection
D distinct mottles are readily seen
P Prominent mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon

PED COL Ped face colour using Munsell notation

GLEY If the soil horizon is gleyed a Y will appear in this column If slightly gleyed an S will appear

STONE LITH Stone Lithology One of the following is used

HR	All hard rocks and stones	**SLST**	Soft oolitic or dolimitic limestone

CH	Chalk	**FSST**	Soft fine grained sandstone
ZR	Soft argillaceous or silty rocks	**GH**	Gravel with non porous (hard) stones
MSST	Soft medium grained sandstone	**GS**	Gravel with porous (soft) stones
SI	Soft weathered igneous or metamorphic rock		

Stone contents are given in % by volume for sizes >2cm >6cm and total stone >2mm

STRUCT The degree of development size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation

Degree of development	**WA**	Weakly developed Adherent	**WK**	Weakly developed
	MD	Moderately developed	**ST**	Strongly developed
Ped size	**F**	Fine	**M**	Medium
	C	Coarse	**VC**	Very coarse
Ped Shape	**S**	Single grain	**M**	Massive
	GR	Granular	**AB**	Angular blocky
	SAB	Sub angular blocky	**PR**	Prismatic
	PL	Platy		

CONSIST Soil consistence is described using the following notation

L	Loose	**VF**	Very Friable	**FR**	Friable	**FM**	Firm
VM	Very firm	**EM**	Extremely firm	**EH**	Extremely Hard		

SUBS STR Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness **G** Good **M** Moderate **P** Poor

POR Soil porosity If a soil horizon has poor porosity with less than 0 5% biopores >0 5mm a Y will appear in this column

IMP If the profile is impenetrable to rooting a Y will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon

SPL Slowly permeable layer If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a Y will appear in this column

CALC If the soil horizon is calcareous with naturally occurring calcium carbonate exceeding 1% a Y will appear this column

2 Additional terms and abbreviations used mainly in soil pit descriptions

STONE ASSESSMENT

VIS	Visual	**S**	Sieve	**D**	Displacement

MOTTLE SIZE

EF	Extremely fine <1mm	**M**	Medium 5 15mm
VF	Very fine 1 2mm>	**C**	Coarse >15mm
F	Fine 2 5mm		

MOTTLE COLOUR May be described by Munsell notation or as ochreous (OM) or grey (GM)

ROOT CHANNELS In topsoil the presence of rusty root channels should also be noted

MANGANESE CONCRETIONS Assessed by volume

N	None		**M**	Many	20 40%
F	Few	<2%	**VM**	Very Many	>40%
C	Common	2 20%			

POROSITY

P	Poor	less than 0 5% biopores at least 0 5mm in diameter
G	Good	more than 0 5% biopores at least 0 5mm in diameter

ROOT ABUNDANCE

The number of roots per 100cm^2		Very Fine and Fine	Medium and Coarse
F	Few	1 10	1 or 2
C	Common	10 25	2 5
M	Many	25 200	>5
A	Abundant	>200	

ROOT SIZE

VF	Very fine	<1mm	**M**	Medium	2 5mm
F	Fine	1 2mm	**C**	Coarse	>5mm

HORIZON BOUNDARY DISTINCTNESS

Sharp	<0 5cm	**Gradual**	6 13cm
Abrupt	0 5 2 5cm	**Diffuse**	>13cm
Clear	2 5 6cm		

HORIZON BOUNDARY FORM Smooth wavy irregular or broken *

* See Soil Survey Field Handbook (Hodgson 1997) for details

SITE NAME	PROFILE NO	SLOPE AND ASPECT	LAND USE		PARENT MATERIAL
Longbridge	PIT 2 (ASP 19 23)	LEVEL	PGR	Av Rainfall 627 mm ATO 1441 day C	River Terrace Gravels
JOB NO	DATE	GRID REFERENCE	DESCRIBED BY	FC Days 139 Climatic Grade 1 Exposure Grade	PSD SAMPLES TAKEN 0 25cm TS MSL s 68%, z 21 / c 11%
77/97	3 12 97	SP 27206235	SH/SK		

Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoniness Size Type and Field Method	Mottling Abundance Contrast, Size and Colour	Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Development Size and Shape	Consistence	Structural Condition	Pores (Fissures)	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcium Carbonate Content	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	25	MSL	75YR43							G	CF		Smooth clear
2	42	SCL	75YR43	40 / T t HR (S&D)			WK SAB largely det by stones	VF	M	G	CF		Smooth abrupt
3	72	MSL	10YR43 (some patches of 10YR53)	46 / Tot HR (S&D)	75YR46 Common	Common between H2 & H3 boundary	WK CAB	VF	G	G	FF & F		Smooth gradual
4	120	SCL	05YR33 05YR44	68 / Tot HR (S & D)	05YR44 Poss mottles		Too stony	VF	M	G	FF & VF		

Profile Gleyed From

Slowly Permeable Horizon From

Wetness Class I

Wetness Grade 1

Available Water Wheat 90 mm

Potatoes 77 mm

Moisture Deficit Wheat 109 mm

Potatoes 101 mm

Moisture Balance Wheat 19 mm

Potatoes 24 mm

Droughtiness Grade 3a (Calculated to 120 cm)

Final ALC Grade 3a

Main Limiting Factor(s) DR

Remarks

Relates to ASP 15 18 19 23

SITE NAME	PROFILE NO	SLOPE AND ASPECT	LAND USE		PARENT MATERIAL
Longbridge	Pit1(ASP6)	Level	CER	Av Rainfall 627mm ATO 1441 day C	River Terrace Gravels
JOB NO	DATE	GRID REFERENCE	DESCRIBED BY	FC Days 139 Climatic Grade 1 Exposure Grade	PSD SAMPLES TAKEN
77/97	3 12 97	SP 2700 6260	SH/SK		TS (0 25 cm) MSL s, 64%, z, 22% c 14/

Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoniness Size Type and Field Method	Mottling Abundance Contrast Size and Colour	Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Development Size and Shape	Consistence	Structural Condition	Pores (Fissures)	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcium Carbonate Content	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	37	MSL	75YR32	19 /o>2cm HR (S)							CF &VF		Gradual wavy
2	68	LMS	75YR43	20 /ot talHR (S&D)			MDCSAB	VF	G	G	FF&VF		Abrupt sharp
3	97	MS	75YR43/ 44	1 /o>2cm (S&D) 28 /o< 2cm 28/5 /total HR	5YR34 slightly cemented Fe pan @ 80cm		MDCAB	VF	G	G	FVF		Abrupt sharp
4	120	MS (occ v thin clay lenses)	05YR44	5 /o>2cm 63 / < 2cm 68 / Total HR	5YR46 (patches) few		WKMSAB	VF	M	G	FVF		

Profile Gleyed From

Slowly Permeable Horizon From

Wetness Class I

Wetness Grade 1

Available Water	Wheat	95 mm
	Potatoes	87 mm
Moisture Deficit	Wheat	109 mm
	Potatoes	101 mm
Moisture Balance	Wheat	14 mm
	Potatoes	14 mm

Droughtiness Grade 3a (Calculated to 120 cm)

Final ALC Grade 3a

Main Limiting Factor(s) DR

Remarks
relates to ASP 6 8 11 12 13 20 24 25 26

77-97 Longbridge Warwickshire Structure Plan

	HA	ACRES	% AGRICULTURAL LAND	% TOTAL LAND
Grade 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Grade 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Subgrade 3a	17 2	42 5	100	62 5
Subgrade 3b	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Grade 4	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Grade 5	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
land Not surveyed	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Total Agri Land =	17 2	42 5	100 0	62 5
Other land	10 3	25 5	-	37 5
Total Site Area =	27 5	68 0	-	100 0