AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LOWER BROADHEATH
WORCESTER

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LOWER BROADHEATH, WORCESTER

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	15.8	27.5
3a	21.7	37.8
3b	19.3	33.8
Other Land		
Urban	0.4	< 1.0
Non Agricultural	0.2	< 0.5

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a are soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team is September 1993 and June 1994. An Agricultural Land Classification (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 figures 57.4 ha site is situated to the east of Upper Broadheath. To the west and south the site is bounded by Crown East Lane, and to the north west by urban development. Land to the north and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad hoc development proposal for a golf course.

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request it 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 cropped with wheat.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 811559).

Altitude (m)	50	65
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	651	670
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1462	1434

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include :

Altitude (m)	50	65
Field Capacity (days)	141	143
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	106	104
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	98	94

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 No geological information was available for this site.

5.2 The soils in the extreme east of the site, those south and west of the sewage works and those south west of Oldbury Wood typically have a clay loam texture over clay to depth. The soils over the remaining site areas north of Oldbury Farm and around Atchen Hill have a sandy loam or sandy silt loam texture frequently overlying sandy clay loam to depth.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 15.8 ha (27.5%) of the survey area and is found at Atchen Hill south of the track and north of Oldbury Farm.

6.1.1 At Atchen Hill and in the area west and immediately north of Oldbury Farm these soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy silt loam topsoil texture, overlying sandy clay loam to depth. The soils are slightly stony and the moisture balance places them into Grade 2.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.1.3 North of Oldbury Farm on the remaining Grade 2 land the soils typically have a clay loam topsoil texture over silty clay loam to depth. These soils fall into Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 21.7 ha (37.8%) of the survey area and is found in several distinct areas; above Atchen Hill, north of the track, west and east of the sewage works and east of Oldbury Farm at the eastern boundary of the site.

6.2.1 The soils at the eastern end of the site and east of the sewage works typically have a clay loam topsoil texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay to depth. The soils west of the sewage works have a sandy silt loam or silty clay loam topsoil texture overlying clay to depth. These soils fall into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2.3 Over the remaining area of Subgrade 3a land north of Atchen Hill, the soils generally have a sandy loam or sandy silt loam topsoil texture overlying sandstone. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a.

6.2.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 19.3 ha (33.6%) of the survey area and is found in a block south west and south of the sewage works and at the southern part of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically have a clay loam topsoil texture overlying clay to depth. These soils fall into Wetness Class IV.

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

6.4 Other land includes urban, covering 0.4 ha (less than 1.0%) of the site as residential housing to the west of the site and the sewage works, and land primarily in non agricultural use which covers 0.2 ha (less than 0.5%) of the survey area as a track way leading from Crown East Lane to Oldbury Grange.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	15.8	27.5	27.8
3a	21.7	37.8	38.2
3b	19.3	33.8	34.0
Other Land			
Urban	0.4	< 1.0	-
Non Agricultural	0.2	< 0.5	-
Totals	57.4	100.0	100.0

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