

**SHREWSBURY AND ATCHAM
LOCAL PLAN**

LAND OFF PULLEY LANE

**Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
January 1999**

**Anya J Spalding
Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA Wolverhampton**

**RPT Reference: 051/98 & 25/RPT/0973
FRCA Reference: EL 35/10151A
LURET Job Number: ME1AP74**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
SHREWSBURY AND ATCHAM LOCAL PLAN
LAND OFF PULLEY LANE**

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 1.15 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the south west of Shrewsbury at Meole Brace, centred on grid reference SJ 484 100. The site is bounded to the north by Rea Brook, to the west by agricultural land, to the south by Pulley Lane and to the east by urban development. The survey was in connection with the Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Plan.
2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in January 1999 by the Resource Planning Team of the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)- Northern region of FRCA.
3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land" (MAFF 1988) .
4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under grass.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10000 with an average auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at this base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% surveyed area	% site area
1	-	-	-
2	1.05	100	91
3a	-	-	-
3b	-	-	-
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	-	N/A	-
Other land	0.10	N/A	9
Total surveyed area	1.05	100	-
Total site area	1.15		100

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Grade 2 (very good quality). The key limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

8. Very good quality land is found throughout the site. The soils commonly comprise either a medium clay loam or a sandy clay loam topsoil, overlying medium clay loam to depth, with abundant stones in the profile. Occasionally sandy clay loam subsoils are present.

FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

Climate

9. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

10. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Meteorological Office, 1989).

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SJ 484 100
Altitude	m, AOD	65
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1417
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	688
Field Capacity Days	days	150
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	103
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	93
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 1

11. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

12. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

13. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1.

Site

14. The site lies at an altitude of 65 metres AOD. The topography of the site is generally flat, gently falling towards a small brook which runs along the western boundary of the site.
15. The three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.
16. These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

Geology and Soils

17. The solid geology of the site comprises of Carboniferous Upper Coal Measures - British Geological Survey (1952). The drift geology of the site comprises of Alluvium, 3rd River Terraces and Fluvio-glacial Flood Gravels - British Geological Survey (1974).
18. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of either a sandy clay loam or a clay loam topsoil passing to horizons of either sandy clay loam or clay loam to depth.

Agricultural Land Classification

19. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the enclosed ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1, page 1.

Grade 2

20. Land of very good quality occupies 1.05 hectares (91%) of the site area.
21. The soils commonly comprise either a medium clay loam or a sandy clay loam topsoil, overlying a medium clay loam subsoil to depth, with abundant stones in the profile. Occasionally sandy clay loam subsoils are present. The depth to gleying and the absence of a slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class II. The moisture balance places these soils in Grade 2.
22. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

Other land

23. Other land occupies 0.10 hectares (9%) of the site area and is found as a strip of woodland extending between the western boundary of the site and the brook which runs northwards along the site boundary.

Resource Planning Team
Northern Region
FRCA Wolverhampton

SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1952) Sheet 152, Shrewsbury, Solid Edition.
1:63 360 Scale.
BGS: London.

British Geological Survey (1974) Sheet 152, Shrewsbury, Drift Edition.
1:63 360 Scale.
BGS: London.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of
England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.
MAFF: London.

Meteorological Office (1989) Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.
Meteorological Office: Bracknell.

SAMPLE NO.	GRID REF	ASPECT		GRDNT	GLEYS	—WETNESS—		-WHEAT-		-POTS-		M.REL DRT	EROSN FLOOD	FROST EXP	FROST DIST	CHEM LIMIT	ALC COMMENTS
		USE	W			CLASS	GRADE	AP	MB	AP	MB						
● 1	SJ48450995	PGR	W	02	000	1	1	102	-1	113	20	3A				DR	3A
● 1P	SJ48450991	PGR	W	01	000	1	1	110	7	094	1	2				DR	2
● 2	SJ48450990	PGR	W	02	000	1	1	090	-13	095	2	3A				DR	3A DA
● 3	SJ48450985	PGR	W	02	085	1	1	129	26	116	23	2				DR	2 DA-95-HR
● 4	SJ48500985	PGR	W	02	070	1	1	153	50	117	24	1					1 GRA-BOT

SAMPLE	DEPTH	TEXTURE	COLOUR	—MOTTLES—			PED COL.	—STONES—			STRUCT/ CONSIST	SUBS					
				COL	ABUN	CONT		GLE	>2	>6		LITH	TOT	STR	POR	IMP	SPL
◆ 1	0-35	mc1	10YR33 00					0	0	HR	5						
	35-70	mc1	10YR44 00					0	0	HR	5			M			
◇ 1P	0-28	mc1	10YR42 00					3	0	HR	12						
	28-52	mc1	75YR43 00					0	0	HR	20	WKCAB	FR	M			
	52-100	sc1	75YR43 00					0	0	HR	50	WKFSAB	FR	G			
◆ 2	0-30	mc1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	5						
	30-60	mc1	75YR33 00					0	0	HR	10			M			
◇ 3	0-33	mc1	10YR43 00					0	0	HR	2						
	33-75	mc1	75YR43 00					0	0	HR	2			M			
	75-85	mc1	10YR54 00	10YR56	00	F		0	0	HR	2			M			
	85-95	mc1	10YR53 00	10YR56	62	M		Y	0	0	HR	5			M		
◆ 4	0-38	mc1	10YR42 00					0	0	HR	2						
	38-70	mc1	75YR53 00					0	0	HR	2			M			
	70-120	sc1	75YR43 00	75YR51	56	M		Y	0	0	HR	5			M		