AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WREKIN LOCAL PLAN
CHURCH ASTON FARM, NEWPORT

S Hunter
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAS Ref: **25/RPT/0061**
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WREKIN LOCAL PLAN, CHURCH ASTON, NEWPORT.

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	0.9	53
3a	0.2	12
Farm buildings	0.6	35

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 1995. An Agricultural Land Classification 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 1.7 ha site is situated south of Newport at Church Aston, and is agricultural land.

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

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this 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 under grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 74177) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	679
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1385

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3:3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	158
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	97
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86

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 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 139, 1:50,000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils, which are typically sandy loam overlying loamy sand with sand or sandy clay loam and clay textures at depth.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 0.9 ha (53%) of the survey area and is found over the west of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam topsoil texture overlying loamy sand and sandy clay loam. Occasional profiles contained clay at depth. The soils are slightly stony, with up to 8% subsoil stones. The moisture balance places these soils in Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 0.2 ha (12%) of the survey area and is found immediately west of the farm buildings.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam topsoil texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.3 Farm buildings occupy 0.6 ha (35%) of the site.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	0.9	53	82
3a	0.2	12	12
Farm buildings	0.6	35	-
Totals	**1.7**	**100**	**100**