AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON LOCAL PLAN
ALVESTON HILL

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON LOCAL PLAN
ALVESTON HILL

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey of this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Sub Grade	Area (ha)	% of the site
2	12.3	59.4
3a	4.3	20.8
3b	4.1	19.8

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land on the site are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 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 20.7 ha site is situated to the north east of the A422 Banbury Road. It is bounded to the north west by housing and agricultural land surrounds the remainder of the site.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Stratford-upon-Avon Local Plan.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1:10000 with a minimum auger boring density of one 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 survey the land was either under cereals or ploughed and manured.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	610 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C for January to June	1445 day °C

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	130 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	111 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	104 mm

4. SITE

4.1 When classifying land 3 site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, micro relief 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 Keuper Marl overlain by Keuper Marl and River Gravels, (British Geological Survey Sheet 200, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consist of clay loam textured soils over clay and clay loam topsoils over stoney sands.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 12.3 ha (59.4%) of the survey area. It occurs as a band across the north of the site and as a larger area in the south of the site.

6.1.1 The soils in the north of the site typically have a clay loam texture over loamy sand.

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

6.1.3 The soils in the south of the site typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay.

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

6.2 Sub-Grade 3a occupies 4.3 ha (20.8%) of the survey area and occurs in the western and central part of the site.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture over clay.

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

6.3 Sub-Grade 3b occupies 4.1 ha (19.8%) of the survey area and occurs as a band across the centre of the site.

6.3.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture over sand and loamy sand with clay at depth. The sand in the upper subsoil is moderately stony.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land in this grade is soil droughtiness.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-Grade	Area (ha)	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	12.3	59.4	59.4
3a	4.3	20.8	20.8
3b	4.1	19.8	19.8
TOTALS	20.7	100.0	100.0

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