

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**  
**HONNINGTON GRANGE, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

**M WOOD**  
**Resource Planning Team**  
**ADAS Statutory Group**  
**WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0661**  
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## AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HONNINGTON GRANGE, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

### 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	51.4	33
3a	79.1	51
3b	13.0	9
Other land		
Woodland	1.5	6
Urban	9.6	1

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 are soil droughtiness and soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.4 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 in September 1994. 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 154.6 ha site is situated to the northeast of Donnington, near Telford. The land immediately to the north, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, the land to the south adjoins Muxton village.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Wrekin District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a semi-detailed grid survey at 1:25000. 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 cereals, grass, lettuce, potatoes and sugar beet.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site : Grid Ref SJ 716 149

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	680
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1404

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	153
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	99
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	89

### 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 mottled sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 153 Wolverhampton 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary boulder clays, laminated clays and fluvio-glacial sand and gravel.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam texture in the north east and south west of the site and a clay loam or clay texture through the centre of the site.

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 51.4 ha (33%) of the survey area and is found in the east and west of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have either a loamy sand, sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with few stones within the profile. Clay may be present in the lower subsoil but this does not affect the grade of this land. In the west of the site (near the Humbers) subsoils are of a sandy clay loam texture.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 79.1 ha (51 %) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north and east of the site..

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with the subsoils being slightly stony. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a. Occasionally there may be clay in the lower subsoil.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 13.0 ha (9 %) of the survey area and is found in the southeast of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam or clay texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

6.4 Other land includes woodland - occupying 15 ha (1 %) of the survey area in the south of the site and urban - covering 9.6 ha (6%) of the survey area as roads, housing and a caravan park.

## 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
	51.4	33	36
2	79.1	51	55
3a	13.0	9	9
3b			
Other land			
Woodland	1.5	1	-
Urban	9.6	6	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>154.6</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>