

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LITLEY FARM, CHEADLE
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN**

**Martin Wood
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON
January 1994**

**Job No: 91/93
MAFF Ref: EL37/00056**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
LITLEY FARM, CHEADLE
STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL 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
4	4.2	100

1.2 This site is a restored opencast coal site which was returned to agricultural use in the late 1960s.

1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 1993. 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 4.2 ha restored opencast site is situated to the south west of Cheadle. The land immediately to the north, south and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Land to the west is not in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council 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:

Average Annual Rainfall	860 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1289 day °C

3.2 Climatically this site is limited to Grade 2.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days	211 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	72 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	54 mm

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 Cheadle Coalfield (Backfill Opencast) - British Geological Survey Sheet 124 Ashbourne 1:50,000. This was overlain by deposits of Quaternary boulder clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 4 - occupies 4.2 ha (100%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam soil texture overlying clay and/or sandy clay to depth, with few stones within the profile. Observations relating to gleying, depth to the slowly permeable layer and the field capacity days for the site place these soils in to wetness class IV. Topsoil depth is variable over the whole site, ranging from 10 to 35 cm.

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

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
4	4.2	100	100
Totals		100.0	100.0

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton
January 1994**