

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
STAFFORDSHIRE AGGEGATES PLAN  
SITE 54, HAMMERWICH**

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# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR STAFFORDSHIRE AGGREGATES PLAN, SITE 54 HAMMERWICH

## 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	hectare	% of site
2	10.6	85.5
3a	1.8	14.5

- 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 November 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 12.4 hectare site is situated to the south of Hammerwich. A dismantled railway forms the southern boundary. The land immediately to the north, east and west of the site is in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Staffordshire Aggregates 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 had been ploughed and prepared for sowing. A field in the north of the site was in winter cereals.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SK 065 069):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	731
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1325

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	170
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	90
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	76

### 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 Sandstone and Upper Mottled Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 154 Lichfield 1 Inch.

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

## 6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 occupies 10.6 hectares (84.5%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying loamy sand to depth with stones common within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

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

6.1.3 Within this grade there were isolated borings of Grade 1 but too small an area to map separately.

6.2 Subgrade 3a occupies 1.8 hectares (14.5%) of the survey area

6.2.1 The soil has either a sandy clay loam texture over sand or sandy loam texture over sand to depth, with stones common within the profile. 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.

### 6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	10.6	84.5	84.5
3a	1.8	14.5	14.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>