

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LANEY GREEN (SITE 66/67)
STAFFORDSHIRE AGGREGATES LOCAL PLAN

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
LANEY GREEN (SITE 66/67), STAFFORDSHIRE AGGREGATES 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
3b	28.7	100

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land on this site are topsoil stone content and soil wetness.

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 28.7 ha site is situated to the northeast of Junction 11 of the M6 motorway. The land immediately surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Staffordshire Aggregates Local Plan.
- 2.4 At the request MAFF's Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at 1: 10 000 scale 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 cereals and grass.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 960 076):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	721
Accumulated Temperature above 0 ⁰ C January to June (day ⁰ C)	1338

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	169
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	77

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 this land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of the Etrurian Marl Group (British Geological Survey, Sheet 153 Wolverhampton 1 Inch). This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary alluvium and boulder clay.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b occupies 28.7 ha (100 %) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam or loamy sand and clay to depth. Occasionally there may be lenses of sandy loam, clay loam, sand or gravel within the subsoil. The profiles are moderately stony (especially in the east of the site). Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in to Wetness Class IV.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are topsoil stone content greater than 2cm in size and soil wetness.

6.2 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Grade/Subgrade	Area (Ha)	% of survey area
3b	28.7	100
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Totals	28.7	100
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