AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MILE END FARM, OSWESTRY

R D METCALFE
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WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR MILE END FARM, OSWESTRY

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	Hectares	% of Site
3a	9.3	34
3b	17.7	65
Other Land		
Woodland	0.1	1

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 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 27.1 hectare site is situated east of Oswestry adjacent to the A5 Oswestry bypass.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a golf course proposal.

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 will 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 (mm)	823
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C for January - June (day °C)	1371

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include;

Field Capacity Days (days)	192
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	89
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 Lower Mottled sandstone overlain by Boulder Clay and sand and gravel - British Geological Survey sheet 137 Oswestry 1".

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which typically have a clay loam texture overlying clay at depth.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 9.3 hectares (34%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the south of the Shrewsbury road, near to Mile House, with a smaller area to the north of the road.

6.1.1 The soil has a medium clay loam texture to depth with a slightly stony subsoil of clay. Observation of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 17.7 hectares (65%) of the survey area and is found widely to the north and south of Shrewsbury Road.

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

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

6.3 Other land includes a small area of recently planted trees occupying 0.1 hectares (less than 1%) of the site.

6.4 Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	9.3	34	34
3b	17.7	65	66
Other Land			
Woodland	0.1	1	
Totals	**27.1**	**100**	**100**

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