AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

STRATFORD ON AVON LOCAL PLAN
WILDMOOR FARM

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WILDMOOR FARM, STRATFORD

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
3a	2.6	9.7
3b	24.1	90.3

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

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 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 26.7 ha site lies south of the A422 Alcester to Stratford Road and is bounded along its northern edge by this road and by agricultural land to the south west and east.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Stratford Local Plan.

2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Units request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10 000 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 wholly under permanent pasture.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SP 168554).

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	627
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1442

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	134
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	108
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	101

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 comprises Lower Lias Clay - British Geological Survey, Sheet 200, Scale 1".

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a occupies 2.6 ha (9.7%) of the survey area and is found over an isolated area in the south east of the site where the topography of the land rises gently.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a heavy clay topsoil texture, overlying clay to depth. The soils fall into Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 24.1 ha (90.3%) of the survey area and is found over the remaining site area.

6.2.1 These soils have a heavy clay loam topsoil texture overlying clay above 45cm. These soils fall into Wetness Class III or IV.

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

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	2.6	9.7	9.7
3b	24.1	90.3	90.3
Totals	26.7	100.00	100.00

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