AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WORCESTER LOCAL PLAN
SITE 3, NUNNERY WAY

V P Redfern
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAS Ref: **25/RPT/0720**
Job No: **026/95**
MAFF Ref: **EL17/10261**

vmunner/jun5/je

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WORCESTER LOCAL PLAN SITE 3, NUNNERY WAY

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
2	4.5	35
3a	4.2	33
3b	3.4	27
Other land		
Not surveyed	0.6	5

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June 1995. 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 12.7 ha site is situated to the west of Worcester. It is bounded to the east by the M5 and the west by Swinesherd Road, (not shown on the map).

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Worcester 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 permanent grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (S0 884 547) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	648
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1432

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	136
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	109
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 geology of the area is comprised of silty drift over Mercia Mudstone.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.5 ha (35%) of the survey area and is found in the south east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a silty clay loam texture overlying clay. The soils are gleyed and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils in Wetness Class II.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 4.2 ha (33%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a silty clay loam texture over clay. The soil is gleyed within 40 cm of the surface and the clay forms a slowly permeable layer placing these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 3.4 ha (27%) of the survey area.

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

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

6.4 An area of 0.6 ha (5%) was not surveyed due to access being denied.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	4.5	35	37
3a	4.2	33	35
3b	3.4	27	28
Other land			
Not surveyed	0.6	5	
Totals	**12.7**	**100.0**	**100.0**