

LILLESHALL NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE
Agricultural Land Classification
November 1996

Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LILLESHALL NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

SUMMARY

1. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

| Grade/Other Land | Area (hectares) | % of surveyed area |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 14.2 | 10 |
| 3a | 43.8 | 31 |
| 3b | 4.8 | 3 |
| Other Land | 62.9 | 45 |
| Not Surveyed | 15.7 | 11 |
| Total Survey Area | 141.4 | 100 |

2. The main limitations to the agricultural use of the land in Grade 2 are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

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

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

INTRODUCTION

5. The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 1996. 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).

6. The 141.4 ha site is situated three miles south of Newport and one mile east of Lilleshall. The land surrounding the site is predominantly in agricultural use, with woodland to the west and a golf course to the south east. The area within the site that is in agricultural use forms two distinct units, one in the north (Childpit Lane) and one in the south west (Brickkiln Plantation).

7. The survey was requested by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in connection with the proposed development for a British Academy of Sport.

8. At the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food 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.

9. At the time of the survey the site was under cereals, grass and cereal stubble from the previous harvest.

CLIMATE

10. The following interpolated data are relevant for the site :

| Factor | Units | Values |
|----------------------------|--------|------------|
| Grid Reference | N/A | SJ 751 151 |
| Altitude | m, AOD | 130 |
| Accumulated Temperature | day °C | 1335 |
| Average Annual Rainfall | mm | 696 |
| Field Capacity Days | days | 160 |
| Moisture Deficit, Wheat | mm | 91 |
| Moisture Deficit, Potatoes | mm | 78 |

11. There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

SITE

12. Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

13. These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

14. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Enville Beds (sandstone and marl) - British Geological Survey Sheet 153 Wolverhampton 1:63 360.

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

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

16. Grade 2 occupies 14.2 ha (10%) of the survey area. It is found at Childpit Lane and Brickkiln Plantation. The soils within this grade are of two distinct types.

17. Firstly there are the lighter soils which typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and weathered sandstone below a depth of 60 to 80 cm. Generally, there are few stones within the soil profile, except just above the bedrock where the weathered sandstone may be extremely abundant. The moisture balance places these soils in Grade 2.

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

19. Secondly there are the soils which typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, clay loam and clay at depth, with few stones within the soil profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class II.

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

21. Subgrade 3a occupies 43.8 ha (31%) of the survey area.

22. The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam, heavy clay loam and or clay, with few stones within the soil profile. Occasionally sandy loam, loamy sand and weathered sandstone may be encountered in the subsoil. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

24. Subgrade 3b occupies 4.8 ha (3%) of the survey area.

25. The soil typically has a sandy clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay, with few stones within the soil profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. There is a small area of land north of Brickkiln Plantation which is underlain with sandstone at 40 cm depth. Here soil droughtiness limits the agricultural use of the land.

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

27. Other land occupies 62.9 ha (45%) of the survey area. This land includes roads with landscaped margins, the Lilleshall Sports complex and areas of woodland.

28. Land which was not surveyed amounts to 15.7 ha (11%) of the survey area. The land is understood to be the subject of an existing planning permission.

29. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for the southern block of agricultural land shows the following proportions of ALC grades to be present:

| Grade/Other Land | Area (hectares) | % of surveyed area |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 5.3 | 14 |
| 3a | 11.6 | 32 |
| 3b | 3.2 | 9 |
| Other Land | 2.8 | 8 |
| Not Surveyed | 13.5 | 37 |
| Total Survey Area | 36.4 | 100 |

30. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for the northern block of agricultural land shows the following proportions of ALC grades to be present:

| Grade/Other Land | Area (hectares) | % of surveyed area |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 8.9 | 20 |
| 3a | 32.2 | 72 |
| 3b | 1.6 | 3 |
| Other Land | 0 | 0 |
| Not Surveyed | 2.2 | 5 |
| Total Survey Area | 44.9 | 100 |