

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 699 (PERRYFIELDS)**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 699 (PERRYFIELDS)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	ha	% of site
1	27.5	27
2	31.8	31
3a	12.0	12
3b	12.5	12
4	0.7	<1
Other land		
Urban	2.7	3
Not surveyed	13.4	13
Wood	0.5	<1
Non Agricultural	1.1	1

- 1.2 The map shows land surveyed in 1989 covering some 19.6 ha north of Red Cross Farm and in 1990 covering some 38.8 ha, south of Kidderminster. In January 1995 a further 40 ha was surveyed north of Kidderminster Road and west of Perryfields Road.

Sections 2 to 6 of that report refer only to the land surveyed in January 1995.

- 1.3 There are no or very minor limitations to the agricultural use of land in Grade 1.
- 1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The land north of Kidderminster Road and in the vicinity of Red Cross Farm was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 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). Parts of the site have previously been surveyed in 1989 and 1990.
- 2.2 The 40.0 ha surveyed is situated to the west Bromsgrove and adjoins the M5 Motorway. Part of the site lies to the west of Whitford Road and extends south to the Kidderminster Road.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Bromsgrove District 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 grass, being used for sheep grazing. There is also evidence of former orchards.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 945712) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	685
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1384

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	158
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	97
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	86

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 limitation on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Lower Keuper Sandstone covered with alluvium - British Geological Survey Sheet 182 Droitwich 1:50000.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy loam or sandy clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 1 - occupies 17.0 ha (43%) and is found to the west of Perryfields Road and south of Red Cross Farm.
 - 6.1.1 These soils have a medium sandy loam texture overlying subsoils of medium sandy silt loam, loamy medium sand and medium clay and occasionally sandy clay loam. Very few stones are present within the soils. The soils are placed in Wetness Class I and satisfy the moisture balance criteria for Grade 1.
 - 6.1.2 There are no or very minor limitations to the agricultural use of this land.
- 6.2 Grade 2 - occupies 9.3 ha (23%) of the survey area and is found north of Kidderminster Road and east of Perryfields Road and close to Red Cross Farm. .
 - 6.2.1 The soils have a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and sand below 45 cm. The moisture balance limits these soils to Grade 2.
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3a - occupies 2.8 ha (7%) of the site and this found close to Kidderminster Road, east of Red Cross Farm and at the northern end of the site.
 - 6.3.1 The soils have a medium sandy loam texture overlying loamy medium sand and sand by 45 cm. On the northern part of the site there are localised areas where sandstone is present below 40 cm.
 - 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.4 Other land includes urban land (0.5 ha and 1%). An area indicated as not surveyed (10.4 ha and 26%) was not surveyed because access was denied.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

1)*	Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
	1	17.0	43	58
	2	9.3	23	32
	3a	2.8	7	10
	Other land			
	Urban	0.5	1	
	Not surveyed	10.4	26	
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	Totals	40.0	100	100
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* Land surveyed in January 1995.

2)*	Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
	1	27.5	27	32
	2	31.8	31	38
	3a	12.0	12	14
	3b	12.5	12	15
	4	0.7	<1	1
	Other land			
	Urban	2.7	3	
	Not surveyed	13.4	13	
	Wood	0.5	<1	
	Non Agricultural	1.1	1	
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	Totals			100
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