

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
SITE 5: BARNSLEY LANE**

**S. Kangh
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT 0119
Job No: 82/95
MAFF Ref: EL 35/10168**

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
SITE 5: BARNESLEY LANE**

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	9.2	47
3b	7.7	39
4	2.5	13
5	0.2	1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b, Grade 4 and Grade 5 is gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 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 19.6 ha site is situated to the East of Barnesley near Bridgnorth. The land immediately to the north, south, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. Land immediately to the south west of the site is currently being used for waste disposal.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Shropshire Minerals 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 (SO 762 927) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	703
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1407

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	160
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	100
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	90

4 SITE

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

4.2 Gradient imposes a limitation on the agricultural use of the land. Gradients range from 8° to 20° over the site.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Pebble Beds, Pebbly Red Sandstone and Conglomerate - British Geological Survey Sheet 153 Dudley Wolverhampton 1 Inch to 1 mile. This is overlain with deposits of Upper Mottled Sandstone.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 9.2 ha (47%) of the survey area and is found in the centre and north east of the site, on the more level land.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a loamy sand texture overlying sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 7.7 ha (39%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north east and south west of the site.

6.2.1 The soil has loamy sand texture over sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient. The gradient ranges from 8° to 11° limiting the Agricultural Land Classification to Subgrade 3b.

6.3 Grade 4 - occupies 2.5 ha (13%) of the survey area and is found in the north west and south of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying sand to depth.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient. The gradient ranges from 12° to 18° over this area of the site and therefore limits the Agricultural Land Classification to Grade 4.

6.4 Grade 5 - occupies 0.2 ha (1%) of the survey area and is found in the south west of the site.

6.4.1 The soil typically has a loamy sand texture overlying sand to depth.

6.4.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient. The gradient in this part of the site ranges from 18° to 20°, limiting the Agricultural Land Classification to Grade 5.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	9.2	47	47
3b	7.7	39	39
4	2.5	13	13
5	0.2	1	1
Totals	19.6	100	100