

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LICHFIELD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
FRADLEY**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
LICHFIELD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN
FRADLEY**

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	220.9	45.8
3b	98.0	20.3
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	3.9	0.8
Woodland	8.2	1.7
Urban	119.2	24.7
Non Agricultural	25.7	5.3
Open Water	1.0	0.3
Not surveyed	5.3	1.1

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in December 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 482.2 ha site is situated to the north of Lichfield and is bounded to the east by the A38. The land immediately to the north, south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Lichfield District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a semi-detailed grid survey at 1:25000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per 3 hectares. 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, cereals, onions, and fallow.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: SK 152130

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	670
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1140

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	149
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	103
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	93

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 is comprised of Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 154 Lichfield 1 Inch. This is overlain with deposits of Pleistocene, and Recent Deposits of Older River Gravels.

5.2 The underlying geology influences of the soils which either have a clay texture south of the airfield or a sandy loam texture over the rest of the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 220.9 ha (45.8%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture occasionally organic, overlying loamy sand and sand, or occasionally clay. The soils are slightly to moderately stony. The moisture balance and the soil content of the topsoil places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.1.3 The soils in the south of the site have a clay loam texture overlying clay loam and clay to depth. The clay forms a Slowly Permeable Layer placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

6.1.4 The main limitation to the use of these soils is soil wetness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 98.0 ha (20.3%) of the survey area and occurs in 3 principle areas: in the northern part of the airfield, around Ryecroft and south of the airfield around East Hill Farm.

6.2.1 Around East Hill Farm the soil has a clay loam texture over clay to depth. The clay forms a Slowly Permeable Layer and places these soils into Wetness Class IV.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of these soils is soil wetness.

6.2.3 In the northern part of the airfield and around Ryecroft the soils consist of sandy loam texture over sand. The soils are slightly to moderately stony with top soil stones greater than 2cm dia of up to 30%.

6.2.4 The main limitations to the agriculture use of this land is soil droughtiness and stoniness.

6.3 Other land on the site includes urban which occupies 119.2 ha (24.7%) of the survey area. This comprises the former airstrip and taxi-ways, industrial development and housing. Non agricultural land occupies 25.7 ha (5.3%) and includes woodland, a nursery and areas of waste ground. Open water occupies 1.0 ha (0.3%) and includes a former gravel pit north west of Old Hall Farm. 5.3 ha (1.1%) near Hilliards Cross was not surveyed as permission to enter on the land was not given.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	220.9	45.8	69.3
3b	98.0	20.3	30.7
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	3.9	0.8	
Woodland	8.2	1.7	
Urban	119.2	24.7	
Non Agricultural	25.7	5.3	
Open Water	1.0	0.3	
Not surveyed	5.3	1.1	
Totals	482.2	100.0	100.0