

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**KING'S ACRE ROAD, HEREFORD**

The site at King's Acre Road, Hereford was surveyed in detail by the Resource Planning Group in January 1990. The site comprises two fields, one on either side of the lane leading from King's Acre Road to Huntingdon on the western outskirts of Hereford. It covers about 4.5 hectares and was in agricultural use (cereals) at the time of survey.

Climate

The average annual rainfall in the vicinity of the site is about 703 mm with maxima in August and November and a drier period from February to April. The accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is 1450 day °C, so there is no overall climatic limitation to the agricultural use of the land. The balance between summer rainfall and evapotranspiration gives moisture deficits of 105 mm for winter wheat and 96 mm for potatoes. The median duration of field capacity is 158 days and the growing season extends to about 250 days from late March until the beginning of December.

Site

The site lies at an altitude of about 64 m^{and} is level throughout.

Geology

Detailed geological maps are not available, but small scale maps indicate that the area west of Hereford is underlain by Devonian Old Red Sandstone rocks with thick drift deposits of till and outwash. The soils developed from this parent material are deep, red in colour and fine sandy or silty textured.

Agricultural land classification.

Grade 1. Most of the site has been mapped as Grade 1. Soils are deep sandy silt loams, occasionally with sandy clay loam in the subsoil. The soils are slightly stony at the surface but with less than 5% stones and some of the profiles have slightly stonier layers at about 45 cm. Much of this stone is soft weathering sandstone. Below about 90 cm stone and gravel content increases. The soils show very few signs of wetness namely occasional manganese concretions and faint ochreous mottles at depths below 70 cm.

Across the centre of the larger of the two fields there is a narrow strip of land with rubble, bricks and stones at the surface, indicating the line of a former track

Grade 2. A small area of grade 2 land has been mapped at the southern end of the site. Soils here are slightly heavier than elsewhere on the site with medium clay loam textures and more signs of wetness below 60 cm. The slight wetness limitation and heavier topsoil textures restricts this land to Grade 2.

Area of land in each Grade

	Hectares	% of Total	% of Agricultural area
Grade 1	3.9	88	91
Grade 2	0.4	9	9
NA	0.1	3	-
Total	4.4	100	100

Site

The site lies at an altitude of about 54 m, is level throughout.

Geology

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