

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WESTWOOD FARM
DROITWICH**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WESTWOOD FARM, DROITWICH

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 the site
2	4.9	7.0
3a	30.6	43.5
3b	23.7	33.7
4	5.4	7.7
Other land:		
Non-surveyed	3.9	5.5
Non-agricultural	0.5	0.7
Woodland	0.6	0.9
Farm Buildings	0.7	1.0

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are soil wetness and gradient.
- 1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 is gradient.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 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 70.3ha site is situated northwest of Droitwich. The site is bounded to the south by the A4133 road and the Broadfield Plantation, to the east by the Great Pool, to the north the site is bounded by woodland, Westwood House and its access road, and to the west by agricultural land. The site is wholly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a development proposal for a golf course.

- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed survey at 1:10,000 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 survey the site was sown largely to cereal, with permanent pasture in the west.

3. CLIMATE

- 3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	647 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1440 day °C

- 3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

- 3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days	137 days
Moisture Deficit, wheat	109 mm
Moisture Deficit, potatoes	101 mm

4. SITE

- 4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro-relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.
- 4.2 Gradient limits the land in the north, below Broad Acres and in the north-west of the site around Warren Bank to Subgrade 3b and land below Warren Bank to Grade 4.
- 4.3 Micro-relief and flooding do not impose any limitation to the agricultural use of the land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey, sheet 182, Scale 1:50,000. Small areas of Quaternary terrace gravels are mapped in the extreme northwest of the site.
- 5.2 The underlying geology influences these soils which generally have a silty clay loam or clay loam texture over clay.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.9 ha (7.0%) of the survey area, and is found in the centre of the site west of the track and in the south of the site below Park House.
- 6.1.1 In the centre of the site the soils typically have a silty clay loam topsoil texture over a heavy silty clay loam subsoil, over clay below 80cm. These soils fall into Wetness Class II.
- 6.1.2 In the south of the site the soils typically have a sandy silt loam topsoil texture over a sandy loam subsoil and sandy clay within 70cm. These soils fall into Wetness Class III.
- 6.1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 30.6 ha (43.5%) of the survey area and is found largely in the central area of the site extending north and south, and also in an isolated area in the extreme east.
- 6.2.1 These soils generally have a silty clay loam or clay loam topsoil texture over clay at a depth of below 38cm. These soils fall into Wetness Class III.
- 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 23.7ha (33.7%) of the survey area and is found in isolated areas across the site.
- 6.3.1 These soils generally have a silty clay loam or clay loam topsoil texture over a heavy clay loam and/or clay above 38cm.
- 6.3.2 The soils in the south and east of the site fall into Wetness Class IV. The main limitation to the agricultural use of the land is soil wetness.
- 6.3.3 Land west of the track around Warren Bank and below Broad Acres is limited in its agricultural use by gradient.
- 6.4 Grade 4 - occupies 5.4 ha (7.7%) of the survey area and is found along the western boundary below Warren Bank.
- 6.4.1 These soils typically have a clay loam or silty clay loam topsoil texture over clay or silty clay to depth.
- 6.4.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient.
- 6.5 Other land includes 3.9 ha (5.5%) of the site which was not surveyed, this was at the farmer's instruction. Non-agricultural land comprises 0.5 ha (0.7%) of the survey area, 0.6 ha (0.9%) of the survey area is covered by woodland and 0.7 ha (1.0% of the site) by farm buildings.

6.6 Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey area	% of Agricultural land
2	4.9	7.0	7.6
3a	30.6	43.5	47.4
3b	23.7	33.7	36.7
4	5.4	7.7	8.3
Other land:			
Non-surveyed	3.9	5.5	
Non-agricultural	0.5	0.7	
Woodland	0.6	0.9	
Farm Buildings	0.7	1.0	
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Totals	70.3	100.0	100.0

S Hunter
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
Wolverhampton
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