

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
SITE 3, SEISDON**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
SITE 3, SEISDON**

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
2	2.3	6
3a	2.0	5
3b	32.3	85
4	0.8	2
Other land		
Non-agricultural	0.7	2

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 is soil wetness and soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a and 3b is soil droughtiness.
- 1.4 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are topsoil texture, gradient and soil droughtiness.
- 1.5 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 October 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 38.1 ha site is situated to the north west of Seisdon, approximately at the mid point between Bridgnorth and Wolverhampton. The land immediately to the south, east and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, with land to the north (on Cannebuff) being covered with mixed woodland..
- 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 fodder crops, grass, sugar beet and cereal stubble.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 816963) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	683
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1347

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	155
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 Gradient acts as a limitation on the agricultural use of the land around the slopes of Cannebuff knoll and Alder Coppice. Near Cannebuff knoll slopes are in the order of 8° to 11°, limiting this area to Subgrade 3b. At Alder Coppice slopes are between 12° and 18°, limiting this area to Grade 4.

4.3 The remaining 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 Triassic Pebble Beds and Lower Keuper Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 67 Dudley 1:63360. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary sand and gravel.

5.2 The soils which have developed over this parent material have a loamy sand or a sandy loam texture

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 2.3 ha (6%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.**
- 6.1.1** These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and heavy clay loam to depth, with few to common stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer, place these soils in Wetness Class III.
- 6.1.2** The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil wetness and soil droughtiness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 2.0 ha (5%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.**
- 6.2.1** The soil has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with few to common stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.
- 6.2.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 32.3 ha (85%) of the survey area and is found over the majority of the site.**
- 6.3.1** The soil typically has a loamy sand or sand texture overlying sand to depth, with few to many stones within the profile. Near Cannebuff knoll gradients are between 8 and 11°. Occasionally loamy sand lenses may be encountered within the subsoil. Where subsoils contain no stone there are isolated profiles of Subgrade 3a quality. However, these cannot be shown separately at this scale of mapping.
- 6.3.2** The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are: topsoil texture where sand is encountered at the surface; gradient where slopes are in the order of 8° to 11° near Cannebuff knoll and Alder Coppice and soil droughtiness.
- 6.4 Grade 4 occupies 0.8 ha (2%) of the survey area and is found in the north west of the site near Alder Coppice**
- 6.4.1** The soil typically has a loamy sand or sand texture overlying sand to depth with few to many stones within the profile and is located on slopes in order of 12° to 18°.
- 6.4.2** The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient.
- 6.5 Other land includes non-agricultural land which occupies 0.7 ha (2%) of the survey area as an overgrown track and as an area to the north of Naboth's Vineyard which is used for the deposition of hardcore, soils, manure and general farmyard 'arisings'.**

6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	2.3	6	6
3a	2.0	5	6
3b	32.3	85	86
4	0.8	2	2
Other land Non-agricultural	0.7	2	-
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Totals	38.1	100	100
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