

**BARONS' CROSS PUBLIC HOUSE  
LEOMINSTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

**Agricultural Land Classification Survey  
ALC Map and Report  
December 1996**

**Resource Planning Team  
ADAS Statutory Group  
ADAS Wolverhampton**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT  
BARONS' CROSS PUBLIC HOUSE, LEOMINSTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 2.9 hectares of land. The land is located immediately south of the Barons' Cross Public House on the western edge of Leominster. The site is adjoined by land in agricultural use to the south and west and land in urban use to the north and east. The survey was undertaken by the Resource Planning Team at Wolverhampton (Northern ADAS Statutory Centre) during November 1996.
2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) from its Land Use Planning Unit, in Crewe. The survey was in connection with the Leominster District Local Plan. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land.
3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).
4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under grass.

**SUMMARY**

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the attached ALC map. At the request of the Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at a scale of 1:10 000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.
6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% site area	% surveyed area
2	2.5	86	93
3b	0.2	7	7
Other Land	0.2	7	-
<hr/>			
Total surveyed area	2.7	-	100
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Total site area	2.9	100	-

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Grade 2 (very good quality) and Subgrade 3b (moderate quality), the main limitation being soil wetness.

8. The area of very good quality land is located over the majority of the site. The soils commonly comprise of medium clay loam topsoil overlying medium clay loam and clay at depth.

9. The area of moderate quality land is mapped towards the north of the site. The varied soils in this area comprise of heavy clay loam or clay overlying clay, bricks and disturbed material.

## FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

### Climate

10. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

11. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 below and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Met. Office, 1989).

12. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SO 495 585
Altitude	m, AOD	89
Accumulated Temperature	day°C	1413
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	743
Field Capacity Days	days	169
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	99
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	88

13. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

14. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. Local climatic factors, such as exposure and frost risk, are not believed to significantly affect the site. The site is climatically Grade 1.

## **Site**

15. The site lies at an altitude of approximately 90m AOD.
16. Three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.
17. These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

## **Geology and soils**

18. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Raglan Mudstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 198.
19. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a medium clay loam texture over clay at depth.

## **Agricultural Land Classification**

20. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1.

### *Grade 2*

21. Land of very good quality occupies 2.5 hectares (86%) of the site area and extends across the majority of the site in a single unit.
22. The soil has a medium clay loam texture over medium clay loam and clay to depth with few or no stones within the profile. The depth to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class II.
23. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

### *Subgrade 3b*

24. Land of good quality occupies 0.2 hectares (7%) of the site area and extends across the north of the site in a single unit.
25. The soil has a heavy clay loam or clay texture which lies directly over clay bricks and disturbed material.
26. The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

*Other Land*

27. Other land occupies 0.2 hectares (7%) of the site area and consists of the Barons' Cross public house, outbuildings and tarmacadamed areas.

Resource Planning Team  
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## SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1989) *Sheet 198, Hereford Solid and Drift Edition. 1:50 00. Scale.*

BGS: London.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) *Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land.*

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Meteorological Office (1989) *Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.*  
Met. Office: Bracknell.