

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (0327/07)
STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (0327/07)
STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN**

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	12.6	27
3b	16.9	36
4	11.0	24
Other land		
Non-Agricultural	0.3	1
Woodland	1.1	1
Urban	1.5	3
Not Surveyed	3.0	7

- 1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are soil droughtiness and topsoil stone content.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are gradient, topsoil stone content and soil droughtiness.
- 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 September 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 46.4 ha site is situated to the north of Walton-on-the-Hill, Stafford. The land immediately to the south and west of the site is predominantly in urban use, land to the east is in agricultural use and land to the north is occupied by the River Sow flood plain.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an Stafford 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 grass, scrub and fallow.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: (SJ 957 215)

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	739
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1356

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	176
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	90
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	77

4. SITE

4.1 *Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.*

4.2 Gradients in the north and east of the site limit the agricultural use of these land to subgrade 3b and Grade 4 where slopes exceed 7 and 11°.

4.3 Micro relief and flooding 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 Bunter Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 139 Stafford 1:50000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy loam texture.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 12.6 ha (27%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the west and east of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth, with the profile being slightly to very stony. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a. Occasionally topsoils may be of a loamy sand texture.

6.1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil droughtiness and topsoil stone content.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 16.9 ha (36%) of the survey area and is found in the centre of site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam or loamy sand texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth. Profiles are moderately to very stony. The moisture balance places these soils in to Subgrade 3b.

6.2.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil droughtiness, topsoil stone content and gradient (where slopes are between 7 and 11°).

6.3 Grade 4 - occupies 11.0 ha (24%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a loamy sand texture overlying sand to depth with profiles being moderately to very stony. These soils are found on the steep northern slopes where gradients are between 11 and 18°.

6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is gradient.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	12.6	27	31
3b	16.9	36	42
4	11.0	24	27
Other land			
Non-Agricultural	0.3	1	-
Woodland	1.1	2	-
Urban	1.5	3	-
Not Surveyed	3.0	7	-
Totals	46.4	100	100