

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
STRATFORD UPON AVON LOCAL PLAN, 32
SHOTTERY

The Shottery site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in March 1993. The site is located to the west of Stratford upon Avon, bounded to the south by the A439 Evesham Road and surrounded by agricultural land. The site consists of 31.75 ha.

At the time of survey the greater part of the site was in arable use, either ploughed, sown with winter cereals or in fallow. Fruit trees occupied the hill slopes in the south-west corner and the south-eastern corner was under grass.

Climate

The average annual rainfall in the vicinity of the site is 620 mm and the accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is 1440 day °C. There is no climatic limitation to the agricultural use of the site.

Site

The northern part of the site is generally level or gently sloping, however, the slopes on Bardon Hill in the south western corner of the site are up to 10°.

Soil

The site is underlain by Lower Lias Clay and Keuper Marl, the two separated by a fault running almost north to south across the southern portion of the site. The soils are heavy clays, occasionally calcareous over the Lower Lias, gleyed and slowly permeable. Over the Keuper Marl soils are lighter and have a higher stone content.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3a

This grade is confined to the south-east corner of the site and coincides with the change in geology from Lower Lias to Keuper Marl. The land is very gently sloping and there are no limitations due to microtopography. The soils are sandy clay loams over clays, moderately stony with increasing stoniness at depth. Wetness is the major limitation to agriculture.

Grade 3b

This grade covers the remainder of the site. The soils are heavy with heavy clay loams or clay over clay. Subsoils are strongly mottled and gleyed and wetness is the major limitation to agricultural utilisation.

Area of land in each grade

	ha	% total
Grade 3a	6.2	19.6
Grade 3b	25.5	80.4

Area of land in each grade in planning areas EL43/00032, EL43/00021

	EL43/00032(ha)	EL43/00021(ha)
Grade 3a	1.8	4.81
Grade 3b	20.06	14.85

Area of land in each grade including adjoining land surveyed in February 1992

	ha	% total
Grade 3a	16.7	20.8
Grade 3b	59.5	74.1

The remaining area is urban or non-agricultural land.

**Resource Planning Team
Wolverhampton
March 1993**