AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
WORCESTER LOCAL PLAN,
SITE 2 - WHITTINGTON ROAD

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR WORCESTER LOCAL PLAN, SITE 2 - WHITTINGTON ROAD

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
3b	5.0	61
Other land		
Non agricultural	0.1	1
Open water	0.1	1
Not surveyed	3.0	37

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b are soil wetness and gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 8.2 ha site is situated to the south east of Worcester. The land immediately to the north and south of the site is predominantly in urban use as Whittington Hall and a college. The land to the west is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Worcester 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 cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 872532) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	644
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1450

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	136
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	109
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	102

4 SITE

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

4.2 In the west of the site, slope are between 7° and 11° and so gradient limits this area to Subgrade 3b.

4.3 The remaining factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of mudstones.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3b - occupies 5 ha (61%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay to depth. The depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV. Mudstone may truncate the depth of the soil profile. In the west of the site slopes are greater than 7° and so gradient limits this area to Subgrade 3b.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness, with the western periphery being limited by gradient.

6.2 Other land includes non-agricultural land which occupies 0.1 ha (1%) of the survey area in the south; open water which occupies 0.1 ha (1%) of the survey area and land which was not surveyed as it was a Sports Ground, 3.0 ha (37%).

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3b	5.0	61	100
Other land			
Non-Agricultural	0.1	1	-
Open Water	0.1	1	-
Not Surveyed	3.0	37	-
Totals	**8.2**	**100**	**100**