

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

PULLEY FARM, DROITWICH

The site which covers about 40 hectares, was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January and February 1993. It is situated to the south of Droitwich and is bounded by the A38 to the west, Pulley Lane to the north and a stream to the south. Beyond the stream and to the east is agricultural land. At the time of survey the site was in agricultural use with grassland grazed by sheep.

Climate

Average annual rainfall - 640 mm

Accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June - 1441 day degree C

Field capacity days - 135

Moisture deficit to wheat - 110 mm

Moisture deficit to potatoes - 102 mm

Site

The site ranges in altitude from 40 m in the south west to just over 55 m in the centre and in the north east. The land is undulating, but slope becomes a limitation only in a small area adjacent to the A38.

Soils

The solid geology in the vicinity of the site comprise Keuper Marl (Mercia mudstone) and this is overlain by drift deposits of alluvium alongside the stream in the south and by glacial terrace deposits in the north west corner. This geology has given rise to mainly medium and heavy textured soils with occasional sandy profiles.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2. A small area of Grade 2 has been mapped in the western edge of the site. Soils are slightly stony medium clay loams over sandy clay loam with loamy medium sand at depth in the profile. Stone content, droughtiness and wetness are all limiting factors in this area.

Grade 3a. Grade 3a has been mapped over most of the central and northern parts of the site. Soils are generally medium clay loams over clay at depths of about 45 cm. Wetness is the major factor limiting the agricultural use of this land.

Grade 3b. Grade 3b has been mapped around the southern and eastern boundaries of the site and in the small area to the south of the farm buildings. Adjacent to the A38 a small area of land is restricted to this grade by slopes of about 8 degrees. Elsewhere soils are medium and heavy clay loams over clay at about 30 cm depth. In the area of lower lying land in the south east

corner of the site, profiles with subsoils of waterlogged peaty clay or peat where encountered. Soil wetness is the main factor limiting the agricultural use of this land.

Area of land in each grade

Grade hectares %

Grade 2	1.3	3
Grade 3a	21.5	52
Grade 3b	18.2	44
Buildings	0.2	1
Total	<u>41.2</u>	<u>100</u>

**Resource Planning Team
Wolverhampton**