

RFCS 3151

13/89

**LAND OFF CHURCH LANE, BACKWELL, AVON
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

REPORT OF SURVEY

In June 1989 the Resource Planning Group carried out an Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of a 1.75 hectare site off Church Lane at Backwell, Avon, in order to help Gloucester Divisional staff to determine their response to an ad hoc planning application.

The application area is adjacent to the south west edge of an original ALC survey conducted in 1985, which had been surveyed at a density of one boring per hectare and mapped at a scale of 1:3,333. This original ALC survey revealed a total of 21.7 ha of grades 1, 2 and 3A.

The present survey revealed grades 1 and 3A in the application area and produced results consistent with the original survey. A total of five auger borings were examined; no pit was dug (as the soil structure, whether "good" or "moderate", would not affect the grading, given the soil textures, soil depth and moisture deficits).

Estimates of important climatic variables were obtained for the site by interpolation from a 5km grid database and are shown in Table 1 below. The results reveal that there is no overall climatic limitation.

Table 1: Climatic Interpolation

Altitude (m)	:	47
Accumulated Temperature (°days)	:	1500
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	:	864
Moisture Deficit, Wheat (mm)	:	92
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes (mm)	:	80
Field Capacity Days	:	194

The soils are typically fine sandy loam topsoils which grade into deep sandy clay loam subsoils. They fall into wetness Class I and do not suffer from a droughtiness limitation and are therefore placed in ALC grade 1.

A small area of sub-grade 3A has been identified along the eastern fringe where the soils are shallow, causing a droughtiness limitation, and the map unit has been delineated along a slight ridge.

The location of the borings is shown on the Auger Sample Point Map and the distribution of ALC grades is shown on the ALC map and outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Distribution of Grades and Sub-grades

Grade	Area (ha)	Area (%)
1	1.58	90.3
3A	0.17	9.7
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Total	1.75 ha	100%

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