

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
LAND AT HOME FARM, SANDHILLS**

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## **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT HOME FARM, SANDHILLS**

### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey for this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

<b>Grade/Subgrade</b>	<b>ha</b>	<b>% of site</b>
3a	64.0	76
3b	15.7	19
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	2.0	2
Non-Agricultural	1.9	2

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrades 3a and 3b is topsoil stone content.

### **2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February and March 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 83.6 ha site is situated to the east of Brownhills and north west of the A461 road. The land in the north adjoins a canal, and the west boundary adjoins housing, while the north eastern boundary adjoins farmland.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc development proposal for an industrial development.
- 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 mostly under cereals, brassicas with some fallow land.

### 3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	725
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1315

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	170
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
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 These factors 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 shown as Soft Sandstone with Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 154 1 inch.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand.

### 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 64.0 ha (76%) of the survey area.

6.1.1 The soil has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth and with up to 15% stones greater than 2cm size present.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is topsoil stone content.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 15.7 ha (19%) of the survey area and is found in the northern and eastern parts of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth. The topsoil content with stones greater than 6cm in size is up to 10%.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is topsoil stone content.

6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings and farm tracks.

6.4 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

<b>Grade/Sub-grade</b>	<b>Areas in Hectares</b>	<b>% of Survey Area</b>	<b>% of Agricultural Land</b>
3a	64.0	76	80
3b	15.7	19	20
Other land			
Agricultural buildings	2.0	2	-
Non-Agricultural	1.9	2	-
<b>Totals</b>	<u>83.6</u> ===	<u>100.0</u> =====	<u>100.0</u> =====

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