

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

**STRATFORD UPON AVON LOCAL PLAN -
TIDDINGTON**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR TIDDINGTON, STRATFORD UPON AVON LOCAL PLAN

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
3a	14.0	48.3
3b	10.9	37.6
Other land		
Non-Agricultural	2.8	9.7
Agricultural Buildings	0.1	0.3
Not surveyed	1.2	4.1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil droughtiness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in February 1993 and June 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 29 ha site is situated to the east of Stratford Upon Avon. The land immediately to the north, and west of the site is in urban use, whilst land to the east and south is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Stratford Upon Avon 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 area was under field vegetables or fallow. Two well-used tracks run north south through the site.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	615
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1449

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	132
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	111
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	104

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 comprised of Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 200 Stratford Upon Avon 1:50000. This is overlain with deposits of Quaternary Second Terrace River Gravels.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 14 ha (48.3%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the north and west of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with many stones within the subsoil. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 10.9 ha (37.6%) of the survey area and is found in the centre and south of the site.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with subsoils being very stony. In the west of the site there is a shallow depression which is increasingly wet with depth, here wetness is the limiting factor

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.

6.3 Other land includes non-agricultural land which occupies 2.8 ha (9.7%) of the survey area as a sports field and trackways and agricultural buildings which occupy 0.1 ha (0.3%) of the survey area. An area of 1.2 ha (4.1%) in the south west corner of the site was not surveyed.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Subgrade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	14.0	48.3	56
3b	10.9	37.6	44
Other land			
Non-Agricultural	2.8	9.7	-
Agricultural Buildings	0.1	0.3	-
Not Surveyed	1.2	4.1	-
Totals:	29.0	100	100