

# AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LAND AT CHURCH STRETTON

## 1. Introduction

The site was visited by the Resource Planning Team in March and April 1993. 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 land" (MAFF 1988).

## 2. Location

The site is situated immediately adjacent to the Eastern edge of Church Stretton (Grid Ref: SO 464936). It is bounded to the North and East by land in agricultural use and to the South and West by land in urban use.

## 3. Climate

Assessment of climatic limitation is based upon average annual rainfall (AAR) and accumulated temperature above 0°C January to June (ATO). For this site the figures are 843 and 1254°C days respectively.

Field capacity days (FCD) are 208 with a moisture deficit wheat of 72 mm and a moisture deficit potatoes of 52 mm.

Climate limits the maximum potential grading of this site to Grade 2.

## 4. Geology and Soils

The solid geology of this site comprises of PreCambrian Greenish Grey Shales which are overlain with deposits of Pleistocene Boulder Clay.

These deposits have given rise to clay rich topsoils which overlie clay subsoils. Thus, these soils are limited by the problems associated with wetness.

## 5. Site

The site itself slopes gently Westward from a high of 225 metres in the East to a low of 210 metres in the West. Gradient is not a limiting factor for this site.

## 6. Land Use

At the time of the survey, the site was under permanent pasture.

## 8. Agricultural Land Classification

### 8.1 Sub-grade 3b - occupies 1.96 (100% of the site)

Typically these soils have a medium or heavy clay loam topsoil to approximately 25 cm which overlies a subsoil of heavy clay loam and clay. There is strong mottling throughout the profile. Topsoil stones are few in occurrence, but in the subsoil they may become common or many and large in size.

These profiles are of wetness class IV and are thus limited by wetness. It should be stressed that the topsoil texture straddles the medium to heavy clay loam boundary and thus, these soils are of a marginal nature, almost being of grade 4 quality.

### 8.2 Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

| Grade | Area in Hectares | % of Site  |
|-------|------------------|------------|
| 3b    | 1.96             | 100        |
| Total | <u>1.96</u>      | <u>100</u> |

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