

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN -
SITE 3 (BARONS CROSS)**

**Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR LEOMINSTER LOCAL PLAN - SITE 3 (BARONS CROSS)

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
2	22.1	44
3a	24.7	49
3b	2.0	4
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	1.1	2
Urban	0.7	1

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness.
- 1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness and gradient.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in June and September 1995. 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 50.6 ha site is situated to the west of Leominster. The land immediately to the north, south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, land to the east is in urban use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Leominster 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 site was under cereals and grass.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 472584) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	748
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1407

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)	98
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	87

4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 Gradient acts as a limitation to Subgrade 3b in the area to the north of Cornhill Cop, where angles of slope are approximately 8°.

4.3 The remaining 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 Raglan Mudstone Formation with interbedded Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 198 Hereford 1:50 000. This is overlain with deposits of till and head.

5.2 The soils derived from these parent materials either have a sandy silt loam texture or a clay loam and/or silty clay loam texture.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 22.1 ha (44%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.**
 - 6.1.1 These soils typically have a medium silty clay loam texture overlying heavy silty clay loam to a depth of at least 70cm, with few stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.**
 - 6.2.1 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 24.7 ha (49%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the west of the site.**
 - 6.2.1 The soil has a sandy silt loam texture over medium silty clay loam and clay to a depth of at least 50 cm, with common stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.**
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.**
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.0 ha (4%) of the survey area and is found in the north of the site.**
 - 6.3.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying silty clay and heavy silty clay loam to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV. Gradient acts as a limitation in the area to the north of Cornhill Cop, where the angle of slope is approximately 8°.**
 - 6.3.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are soil wetness and gradient.**
- 6.4 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 1.1 ha (2%) of the survey area at Cornhill Cop; and urban - covering 0.7 ha (1%) of the survey area at Long Acre, Ebnall Farm and as an access road to Cornhill Cop.**

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	22.1	44	45
3a	24.7	49	51
3b	2.0	4	4
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	1.1	2	-
Urban	0.7	1	-
Totals	50.6	100	100