

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HORTON WOOD, WREKIN DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN**

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WOLVERHAMPTON**

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HORTON WOOD, WREKIN DISTRICT 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	19.6	81.3
3b	4.3	17.9
Other land		
Non Agricultural Land	0.2	0.8

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 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 September and October 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 24.1 ha site is situated to the north east of Horton near Telford. The land immediately to the north, south and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use, land to the east is part of Donnington Central Ordnance Depot.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Wrekin District 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 permanent grass and cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ 690 145) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	678
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1414

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	151
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	101
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	91

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 Keel Beds: Red Marls and Sandstones - British Geological Survey Sheet 153 Wolverhampton 1 inch. This is overlain with deposits of Pleistocene Glacial Sand and Gravel and Boulder Clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a clay loam texture over the majority of the site and a sandy loam texture in the east and south east of the site.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 19.6 ha (81.3%) of the survey area and is found over the central and western part of the site.

6.1.1 The soil has medium clay loam texture over clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 4.3 ha (17.9%) of the survey area and is found over the eastern and south eastern part of the site, adjacent to the Ordnance Depot.

6.2.1 The soil typically has a loamy sand texture overlying medium sand to depth. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3b.

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

6.3 Non agricultural land occupies 0.2 ha (0.8%) of the survey area as a public footpath and derelict buildings which are overgrown and wooded in the south east of the site.

6.4 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	19.6	81.3	82
3b	4.3	17.9	18
Other land			
Non Agricultural Land	0.2	0.8	-
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Totals	24.1	100.0	100.1
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