AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL
LOCAL PLAN
HAGLEY PARK, RUGELEY

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN - HAGLEY PARK, RUGELEY

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	3.5	4.9
3a	15.2	21.1
3b	47.1	65.6
Other land	0.3	0.4
Agricultural buildings	0.4	0.6
Non-agricultural	4.1	5.7
Urban	1.2	1.7

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil droughtiness and/or topsoil stone content.

1.3 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil droughtiness, topsoil stone content and/or gradient.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 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 71.8 ha site is situated in the west of Rugeley. The land immediately to the north, south and east of the site is predominantly in non-agricultural or urban use. The land immediately to the south west is in agricultural use.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with a local plan development for Cannock Chase District Council.

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 grass and cereals.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site:

Average Annual Rainfall	750 mm
Accumulated Temperatures above 0°C January to June	1357 day °C

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include

Field Capacity Days	176 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	92 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	80 mm

4. SITE

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

4.2 Gradient imposes a limitation to the agricultural use of the land (Subgrade 3b) in the north and south of the site where slopes are between 8° and 11°.

4.2 Micro relief and flooding 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 Bromsgrove and Cannock Sandstone - British Geological Survey Sheet 140 Burton upon Trent 1:50000. This is overlain by deposits of Quaternary alluvium and fluvio-glacial sand and gravel.

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

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 3.5ha (4.9%) of the survey area and is found in the north west of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few stones within the profile.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 15.2ha (21.1%) of the survey area and is found to the north of Rising Brook and to the north east of Lower Birches.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy loam texture over loamy sand and sand to depth. The topsoil is slightly stony with few stones within the subsoil.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use are either soil droughtiness or topsoil stone content.

6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 47.1ha (65.6%) of the survey area and is found throughout the majority of the site.

6.3.1 The soil typically has a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth. The topsoil is moderately stony with subsoil stones becoming abundant in occurrence.

6.3.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are gradient (where slopes are between 8°and 11°), topsoil stone content and soil droughtiness.

6.4 Grade 4 - occupies 0.3 ha (0.4%) of the survey area and is found to the north east of Hagley Farm.

6.4.1 The soil typically has a loamy sand texture overlying bedrock, with few stones within the profile.

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

6.5 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.4 ha (0.6%) of the survey area and are found to the south of the site; urban - covering 1.2ha (1.7%) of the survey area as a road and residential housing in the north and centre of the site and non-agricultural land which occupies 4.1 ha (5.7%) of the survey area and is found adjacent to Jones Lane leading to the waterworks and as scrub along Rising Brook.

6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Sub grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	3.5	4.9	5.3
3a	15.2	21.1	22.9
3b	47.1	65.6	71.3
4	0.3	0.4	0.5
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.4	0.6	-
Non-Agricultural	4.1	5.7	-
Urban	1.2	1.7	-
Totals	71.8ha	100%	100%

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