

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
HIGH LEGH PARK GOLF COURSE**

**R D Metcalfe
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON**

**Job No: 89/93
MAFF Ref: EL06/10317
January 1994**

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR HIGH LEGH PARK GOLF COURSE

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	42.9	51
3b	29.3	35
Other land		
Agricultural buildings	0.3	1
Woodland/ponds	9.9	12
Urban	1.2	1

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

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in July 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 Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988).
- 2.2 The 83.9 ha site is situated to the east of High Legh. The land immediately to the north, south and west is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an golf course development.
- 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 (SJ706841 96m):

Average Annual Rainfall	814 mm
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June	1375 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	193 days
Moisture Deficit Wheat	87 mm
Moisture Deficit Potatoes	74 mm

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 Lower Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 98 1 Inch. This is overlain by deposits of sand and gravel and boulder clay.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which have a clay loam texture overlying clay with soils of sandy texture towards the south eastern boundary of the site.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 42.9 ha (51%) of the survey area and is widespread throughout the site.
 - 6.1.1 Over much of the site the soil has a clay loam texture overlying clay below 45 cms. Observation of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in wetness class III.
 - 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
 - 6.1.3 At the south eastern boundary of the site the soil has sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand below 50 cms.
 - 6.1.4 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil droughtiness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 29.3 ha (35%) of the survey area and is found mainly to the north of Wrenshot Lane.
 - 6.2.1 The soil typically has a clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class IV.
 - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.3 Other land includes agricultural buildings which occupy 0.3 ha (1%) of the survey area; woodland - occupying 9.9 ha (12%) and land classified as urban covering 1.2 ha (1%).

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	42.9	51	60
3b	29.3	35	40
Other land			
Agricultural Buildings	0.3	1	-
Woodland	9.9	12	-
Urban	1.2	1	-
Totals	83.9	100.0	100.0