PROPOSED CEMETERY
OFF HOLYHEAD ROAD, WERGS,
CODSALL

Agricultural Land Classification Survey
ALC Map and Report
March 1997

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ADAS Statutory Group
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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
PROPOSED CEMETERY OFF THE HOLYHEAD ROAD, WERGS, CODSALL

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 15.4 hectares of land. The land is located adjacent to the A41 at Wergs, Codsall. The survey was undertaken by the Resource Planning Team at Wolverhampton (Northern ADAS Statutory Centre) during March 1997.

2. The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) from its Land Use Planning Unit in Crewe. The survey was in connection with a proposed cemetery. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land.

3. The land has been graded in accordance with the publication "Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales - Revised Guidelines and criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land" (MAFF 1988) .

4. At the time of survey the agricultural land on this site was under grass, horses were present.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the attached ALC map. At the request of the Land Use Planning Unit this was a detailed grid survey at a scale of 1:10 000 with a minimum auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at the base map scale and any enlargement would be misleading.

6. The area and proportions of the ALC grades and subgrades on the surveyed land are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% site area	% surveyed area
3a	11.5	75	85
3b	2.1	14	15
Other Land	1.8	11	-
Total surveyed area	13.6		100
Total site area	15.4	100	

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3a (good quality) and Subgrade 3b (moderate quality), the key limitation being soil wetness.

8. The area of good quality land is located over much of the site. The soils commonly comprise either a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam overlying a clay subsoil.

9. The area of moderate quality land is mapped in three areas. The soils comprise either a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam topsoil overlying a gleyed and slowly permeable clay subsoil.

FACTORS INFLUENCING ALC GRADE

Climate

10. Climate affects the grading of land through the assessment of an overall climatic limitation and also through interactions with soil characteristics.

11. The key climatic variables used for grading this site are given in Table 2 below and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Met. Office, 1989).

12. The climatic criteria are considered first when classifying land as climate can be overriding in the sense that severe limitations will restrict land to low grades irrespective of favourable site or soil conditions.

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SJ 886 016
Altitude	m, AOD	122
Accumulated Temperature	day°C	1347
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	708
Field Capacity Days	days	161
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	93
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	80

13. The main parameters used in the assessment of an overall climatic limitation are average annual rainfall (AAR), as a measure of overall wetness, and accumulated temperature (AT0, January to June), as a measure of the relative warmth of a locality.

14. The combination of rainfall and temperature at this site means that there is no overall climatic limitation. The site is climatically Grade 1.

Site

15. The site lies at an altitude of about 122m AOD. The land falls gently to the east.

16. Three site factors of gradient, microrelief and flooding are considered when classifying the land.

17. These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of this land.

Geology and soils

18. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Keuper Sandstone. This is overlain with deposits of Boulder clay, alluvium and fluvio-glacial sand - British Geological Survey (1948 and 1958).

19. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a sandy clay loam texture over clay at depth.

Agricultural Land Classification

20. The details of the classification of the site are shown on the attached ALC map and the area statistics of each grade are given in Table 1.

Subgrade 3a

21. Land of good quality occupies 11.5 hectares (75%) of the site area and extends across the majority of the site in a single unit.

22. The soil has either a sandy clay loam or medium clay loam texture over clay to depth with few or no stones within the profile. The depth to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

Subgrade 3b

24. Land of moderate quality occupies 2.1 hectares (14%) of the site area and is found close to Brick Kiln Covert and in the north western part

25. The soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying clay. The depth to gleying and the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.

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

Other Land

27. Other land occupies 1.8 hectares (11%) of the site area and includes a covert and ponds.

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SOURCES OF REFERENCE

British Geological Survey (1948 and 1958) *Sheet 153, Wolverhampton Solid and Drift Edition.*
1:63 360 Scale.
BGS: London.

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MAFF: London.

Meteorological Office (1989) *Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification.*
Met. Office: Bracknell.