

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
TWEMLAWS HALL**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
SHROPSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN
TWEMLOWS HALL**

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	4.5	8.6
3a	23.4	44.9
3b	17.8	34.2
Other land		
Non agricultural	2.6	5.0
Urban	3.8	7.3

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

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in November 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 52.1 ha site is situated to the North of Prees Heath and comprises a disused airfield. The land immediately to the north and west of the site is predominantly in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Shropshire Minerals 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 fallow following silage maize.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SJ565375) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	745
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1369

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	169
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	91
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	78

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 Lias - British Geological Survey Sheet 122 Nantwich 1 inch. This is overlain with deposits of Glacial Sand and Gravel.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.5 ha (8.6%) of the survey area and is found in the east of the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a sandy loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The moisture balance places these soils into Grade 2.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 23.4 ha (44.9%) of the survey area.

6.2.1 The soil has a sandy loam or loamy sand texture over sand to depth, with few or no 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 17.8 ha (34.2%) of the survey area and is found on the western side of the runway.

6.3.1 Augering in this area was restricted to about 35 cm depth over much of the area and pit profiles showed that hardcore material had been laid over much of the area at a depth of between 30 cm and 60 cm and a thickness of 10 cm to 35 cm. The soil covering this material had a sand or loamy sand texture.

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

6.4 Other land on the site includes non-agricultural occupying 2.6 ha (5.0%) of the survey area and comprising an area planted with trees, and urban occupying 3.8 ha (7.3%) and comprising a disused runway.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
2	4.5	8.6	9.9
3a	23.4	44.9	51.2
3b	17.8	34.2	38.9
Other land			
Non-agricultural	2.6	5.0	
Urban	3.8	7.3	
Totals	52.1	100.0	100.0