AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
RUGBY LOCAL PLAN
NEWTON

V.P. REDFERN
Resource Planning Team
ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0537
Job No: 062/94
MAFF Ref: EL 43/00018A

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR RUGBY LOCAL PLAN, NEWTON

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Survey of this site shows that the following proportions of ALC grades are present:

Grade/Subgrade	Area (ha)	% of the site
3a	36.3	49.9
3b	36.5	50.1

1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land on the site is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 1994. An ALC 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 72.8 ha site is situated to the west of the village of Newton. The land is bounded to the north by the M6, to the east by a disused railway and to the west by agricultural land.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Rugby Local Plan.

2.4 At the request of MAFF the survey was at a scale of 1 : 10 000 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 survey the site was predominantly under grass and being grazed by cattle. Two fields on the western side of the site were in maize.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SP 524783):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	690
Accumulated Temperature above 0° C for January to June (day °C)	1356

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant climatic data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	158
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	96
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	85

4 SITE

4.1 When classifying land three site factors are taken into consideration; gradient, microrelief and flooding.

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

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area consists of Boulder Clay and Glacial Sand and Gravel, (British Geological Survey Sheet 169, Coventry, 1 inch).

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which consist predominantly of clay loam textured topsoils over clay.

6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Grade 3a occupies 36.3 ha (49.9 %) of the survey area and occurs as three areas over the site.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a clay loam texture over clay loam and clay. The clay forms a slowly permeable layer below 45 cm, placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Grade 3b occupies 36.5 ha (50.1 %) of the site .

6.2.1 The soils within this subgrade typically have a clay loam texture over clay. The clay forms a slowly permeable layer below 35 cm, placing these soils into Wetness Class IV.

6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in this subgrade is soil wetness.

6.3 Some isolated borings of Grades 1 and 2 were described, however they covered an area too small to map at this scale and these borings have been included within Subgrade 3a.

6. Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/ sub - grade	Area (ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
3a	36.3	49.9	49.9
3b	36.5	50.1	50.1
Totals	72.8	100.0	100.0