

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

KINGFISHER ROAD, BELMONT

HEREFORD

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
KINGFISHER ROAD, BELMONT
HEREFORD.**

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	5.4	77
3b	1.6	23

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

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in October 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 7.0 ha site is situated to the south-west of Hereford city. It is bounded to the north, east and south west by residential housing and Belmont Pool. The land to the south east of the site is in agricultural use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with an ad-hoc housing development proposal.
- 2.4 At the request of the Land Use Planning Unit of MAFF this was a detailed grid survey at 1: 5 000 scale with a minimum auger boring density of 4 per hectare. The attached map is only accurate at the base map scale of 1 : 10 000 and any enlargement would be misleading.
- 2.5 At the time of survey the land was under grass.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 489 379):

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	707
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1437

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	157
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	103
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	94

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 this land.

5. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The geology of the area is comprised of shales and siltstones - Soil Survey Of Engand and Wales 1984.

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

6. **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

6.1 Subgrade 3a occupies 5.4 ha (77 %) of the survey area.

6.1.1 These soils typically have a silty clay loam texture overlying silty clay loam and silty clay loam or silty clay. The lower subsoil forms a slowly permeable layer placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.2 Subgrade 3b occupies 1.6 ha (23 %) of the survey area.

6.2.1 These soils typically have a heavy silty clay loam texture overlying heavy silty clay loam and silty clay to depth. The silty clay forms a slowly permeable layer, placing these soils into Wetness Class III.

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

6.3 **SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES**

Grade/Subgrade	Area (Ha)	% of survey area	% of agricultural land
3a	5.4	77	77
3b	1.6	23	23
Totals	7.0	100	100