AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
KINGSTON HILL (0535/07 & 14)
STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN

M Wood
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ADAS Statutory Group
WOLVERHAMPTON

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AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR KINGSTON HILL (0535/07 & 14), STAFFORD LOCAL PLAN

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	9.7	100

1.2 The main limitations to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a are soil droughtiness and soil wetness.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in September 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 9.7 ha site is situated to the east of Kingston Hill, Stafford. The land immediately to the north, south and west of the site is in agricultural use, whilst land to the east is in urban use as a Crematorium.

2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with Stafford 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 cereal stubble.

3. CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site: (SJ 948 234)

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	739
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1372

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site.

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	178
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	92
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 Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds - British Geological Survey Sheet 139 Stafford 1:50000.

5.2 The underlying geology influences the soils which either have a sandy texture or sandy clay loam texture.

6. AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 9.7 ha (100%) of the survey area. The soils are of two distinct types.

6.1.1 Firstly there are the soils which typically have a sandy clay loam texture overlying loamy sand and sand to depth, with subsoils being moderately stony. The moisture balance places these soils into Subgrade 3a.

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

6.1.3 Secondly, there are the soils which have a sandy clay loam texture overlying sandy clay loam and clay or heavy clay loam, with few to common stones within the profile. Occasionally there may be lenses of loamy sand. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.

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

6.1.5 In places (especially in the west of the site) topsoil stone content also limits the agricultural use of this land to Subgrade 3a.

6.5 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area	% of Agricultural Land
3a	9.7	100	100
Totals	9.7	100	100