

**CLEOBURY MORTIMER
Golf Course Extension
Agricultural Land Classification
ALC Map and Report
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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT
CLEOBURY MORTIMER
Golf Course Extension**

INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey on 21.3 hectares of land. The results of this survey supersede any previous ALC information for this land. The land is located to the north east of Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire. The survey was in connection with the proposed extension of the existing golf course.
2. The survey was undertaken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in June 1997 by the Resource Planning Team of the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)- Northern region of FRCA.
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 fodder beet, grass, maize and peas.

SUMMARY

5. The findings of the survey are shown on the enclosed ALC map. The map has been drawn at a scale of 1:10000 with an average auger boring density of 1 per hectare. The ALC map is only accurate at this 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.

Table 1: Area of grades and other land

Grade/Other land	Area (hectares)	% surveyed area	% site area
1	-	-	-
2	-	-	-
3a	7.2	40	34
3b	10.9	60	51
4	-	-	-
5	-	-	-
Agricultural land not surveyed	-	N/A	-
Other land	3.2	N/A	15
Total surveyed area	18.1	100	-
Total site area	21.3	-	100

7. The agricultural land on this site has been classified as Subgrade 3a (good quality) and Subgrade 3b (moderate quality), the key limitations to the agricultural use of this land include soil wetness and soil droughtiness.

8. The area of good quality land is located in the centre of the site. The soil has a clay loam topsoil overlying clay loam and either clay or sandy loam and weathering bedrock.

9. The area of moderate quality land is mapped in the north and south west of the site. The soils in this area have a clay loam topsoil overlying either a gleyed and slowly permeable clay or heavy clay loam 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 and were obtained from the published 5km grid datasets using standard interpolation procedures (Meteorological Office, 1989).

Table 2: Climatic and altitude data

Factor	Units	Values
Grid reference	N/A	SO 691 775
Altitude	m, AOD	170
Accumulated Temperature	day°C (Jan-June)	1307
Average Annual Rainfall	mm	813
Field Capacity Days	days	189
Moisture Deficit, Wheat	mm	81
Moisture Deficit, Potatoes	mm	65
Overall climatic grade	N/A	Grade 2

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.

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 a climatic limitation of Grade 2.

Site

15. The site lies at an altitude of 150 to 170 metres AOD. The land rises towards the north of the site from the current club house in the south of the site.
16. The 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 Lower Old Red Sandstone (Downtonian) and Westphalian coal measures - British Geological Survey (1979).
19. The soils that have developed on this geology are generally of a clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and clay.

Agricultural Land Classification

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

Grade 3a

21. Land of good quality occupies 7.2 hectares (34%) of the site area and is found in the centre of the site.
22. The soil has a clay loam texture over clay loam, sandy clay loam and sandy loam to a depth of approximately 50-90 cm where the bedrock is encountered. The moisture balance places these soils in Subgrade 3a. In places the depth to gleying puts some of these soils in Wetness Class II.
23. The main limitations to the agricultural use of this land are either soil wetness or soil droughtiness.

Subgrade 3b

24. Land of moderate quality occupies 10.9 hectares (51%) of the site area and is found in the north and south west of the site.
25. The soil has a clay loam texture over heavy clay loam and 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 3.2 hectares (15%) of the site area and is found in the south east of the site. Part of this area is occupied by a storage reservoir with the remainder used for a golf driving range. At the time of the survey part of the driving range was being excavated for overburden to make course alterations around the storage reservoir.

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SOURCES OF REFERENCE

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BGS: London.

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