AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

STRATFORD UPON AVON LOCAL PLAN, SHOTTERY

The site at Shottery was surveyed by the Resource Planning Group in January 1992. It covers 48.5 ha, most of which was in agricultural use, mainly winter sown cereals, at the time of survey. The Northernmost field was under permanent grassland and the southernmost under a recently sown ley. Areas not in agricultural use include the woodland to the south of Ann Hathaway's Cottage, and the electricity sub station and garage with associated buildings in the north.

The site is situated on the western edge of Stratford, and is bounded by the A422 Alcester road to the north, the A439 Evesham road to the south and the urban edge of Stratford to the east. To the west lies agricultural land. A number of well used footpaths cross the site, but there were no obvious signs of any trespass problems arising from these.

Climate

The average annual rainfall in the vicinity of the site is 617mm and the accumulated temperature above 0°C for the period January to June is 1443 day °C. The combination of rainfall and temperature indicate there is no overall climatic limitation to the agricultural use of this site. The balance between summer rainfall and evapotranspiration gives moisture deficits of 109mm for winter wheat and 102mm for potatoes. The medium duration of field capacity is 132 days. The growing season extends to about 250 days from late March to late November and the mean date of last frost is April.

Site

Most of the site is gently sloping from a ridge on the western edge of the site down to the east and south east. In the north of the site the land slopes down to the Alcester Road. The fields immediately to the south and west of Ann Hathaway's Cottage are level and slightly lower lying than the remainder of the site. Altitude ranges from about 35m in the south up to 60m on the western edge to the north of Hansells Farm.

Soil

The area is underlain by Lower Lias Clay and Keuper Marl, the two being separated by a fault running almost north to south and separating the lower lying fields in the south east from the remainder of the site. The soils are heavy, gleyed clays, occasionally calcarious and slowly permeable in the sub soil. In the south of the site soils are lighter and have a higher stone content.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3a

Land in the south east of the site has been mapped as grade 3a. The land is level and soils are medium clay loams or sandy clay loams over clay, and slightly stony in the most southerly field. Wetness is the major limiting factor on the finer stoneless soils, and drought is limiting on the shallower stony soils.

Grade 3b

Most of the site has been mapped as grade 3b. Soils are heavy clay loams over clay, occasionally calcareous and slowly permeable in the sub soil. Wetness is the main factor limiting their agricultural use.

Area of land in each grade

	h/a	% of total	% of agricultural area
Grade 3a	10.5	21.7	23.6
Grade 3b	34.0	70.0	76.4
Urban	1.5	3.1	
Non agricultural	2.5	5.2	

RESOURCE PLANNING GROUP
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