

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION  
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 909 - RYEFIELDS FARM**

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**ADAS Ref: 25/RPT/0389  
Job No: 106/94  
MAFF Ref: EL 17/00089**

# **AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR BROMSGROVE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - SITE 909 - RYEFIELDS FARM**

## **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
2	4.0	16
3a	18.1	72
3b	1.6	6
4	0.2	< 1
Other land		
Urban	0.4	1
Not surveyed	0.9	4

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 2 and Subgrades 3a and 3b is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Grade 4 is micro relief.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in January 1995. 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 25.2 ha site is situated to the east of Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove. The northern boundary of the site is formed partly by Shaw Lane and housing. The eastern and western boundaries of the site adjoin housing and the southern boundary is formed by the main railway line.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Bromsgrove District Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 scale 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 grass, being used for sheep grazing. There was also evidence of former orchards.

### 3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 945671) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	651
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1432

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	145
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	107
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	98

### 4 SITE

4.1 Three site factors of gradient, micro relief and flooding are considered when classifying land.

4.2 Micro relief affects a small depression on the site.

### 5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Keuper Marl - British Geological Survey Sheet 182 Droitwich 1:50000.

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

## **6 AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION**

- 6.1 Grade 2 - occupies 4.0 ha (16%) of the survey area and is found to the south of Ryefields Farm.**
  - 6.1.1 These soils have a sandy clay loam texture overlying clay below 50 cm. Observations of gleying below 40 cm and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class II.**
  - 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.**
- 6.2 Subgrade 3a - occupies 18.1 ha (72%) of the survey area.**
  - 6.2.1 The soil have either a medium clay loam or sandy clay loam texture overlying clay by about 50 cm. Observations of gleying above 40 cm and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class III.**
  - 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use is of this land is soil wetness.**
- 6.3 Subgrade 3b - occupies 1.6 ha (6%) of the survey area and is found in small areas to the east of Ryefields Farm, at the south western and northern eastern corner of the site.**
  - 6.3.1 The soil has either a medium clay loam or heavy clay loam texture overlying clay below 30 cm. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.**
  - 6.3.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.**
- 6.4 Subgrade 4 - occupies 0.2 ha (<1%) of the survey area and is confined to a small depression east of Ryefields Farm.**
  - 6.4.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam texture and augering below 20 cm was not possible. There are short steep sides into the depression.**
  - 6.4.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is micro relief.**
- 6.5 Other land (1.3 ha) includes land classified as urban and not surveyed - small fields attached to houses.**

## 6.6 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

<b>Grade/Sub-grade</b>	<b>Area in Hectares</b>	<b>% of Survey Area</b>	<b>% of Agricultural Land</b>
2	4.0	16	17
3a	18.1	72	76
3b	1.6	6	6
4	0.2	<1	1
Other land			
Urban	0.4	1	
Not surveyed	0.9	4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>