

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION RUGBY LOCAL PLAN - COTON

1. Summary

Of the site covering 96.3 ha, 7.1 ha is classified as Grade 2 with a further 27.4 ha as sub-grade 3b. A further 60.1 ha is classified as sub-grade 3b and 1.7 ha as non-agricultural land.

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

2. Introduction

2.1 The site lies to the north of Rugby and its northern boundary is formed by the M6 motorway, the western one by the A426 road. The southern boundary adjoins recent housing development and the eastern one farm land.

The site was surveyed by RPT during June 1993 to provide information for the Rugby Local Plan. The site was previously surveyed in 1983. However, a re-survey was required in more detail and using the MAFF Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) revised guidelines (1988). A grid survey method was used at a scale of 1:10000 with a sampling density of one boring per hectare. Several soil pits were dug to examine subsoil structure. Final mapping was at a scale of 1:10000 and enlargement of the map would be misleading.

2.3 At the time of the survey the land was under grass, beans, cereals and "Set Aside".

3. Climate

3.1 Climate is considered first as it has a major and, in places, overriding influence on land quality irrespective of favourable soil or site conditions. From the "Metdata" system the following data are obtained:

Average annual rainfall (AAR)	692mm
Accumulated temperature above 0°C January-June (ATO)	1339 day
Field capacity days (FCD)	158 days
Moisture deficit wheat	95mm
Moisture deficit potatoes	84mm

3.2 Climate does not impose any limitation on the agricultural use of the land.

4. Site

4.1 The site rises gently from its eastern boundary to a level plateau.

4.2 The relief does not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5. Geology and Soils

5.1 The underlying geology includes clays and cement stones covered with boulder clay, sand and gravel deposits (Geological Survey Sheet 169, Coventry).

5.2 The soils generally have a medium clay loam texture overlying clay.

6. Agricultural Land Classification

6.1 Grade 2 land covers 7.1 ha of the site and is found in the south-east corner.

6.2 Typically the soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay below 60cm. The combination of field capacity days, gleying and slowly permeable layer at 60cm places the soil in wetness class II and hence a classification of Grade 2. The main limitation is soil wetness.

6.3 Sub-grade 3a land covers 27.4 ha and is found in the north-east corner and southern parts of the site.

6.4 Typically the soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying heavy clay loam and clay below 50cm. The combination of field capacity days, depth to gleying and slowly permeable layer places the soils in wetness class III and hence a classification of Grade 3a. The main limitation is soil wetness.

- 6.5 **Sub-grade 3b** land covers 60.1 ha and is widespread over the site.
- 6.6 The soil has a medium clay loam texture overlying clay at 28cm. The combination of field capacity days, depth to gleying and slowly permeable layer present at 28cm places these soils in wetness class IV and hence sub-grade 3b. The main limitation is soil wetness.
- 6.7 **Non-agricultural** land covers 1.7 ha and includes agricultural buildings, woodland and small ponds.

Summary of Agricultural Land Classification Grades

Grade/Sub grade	Area (ha)	As % of total area	As % of agricultural area
2	7.1	7	7
3a	27.4	29	30
3b	60.1	62	63
Non-agricultural	1.7	2	-
	<u>96.3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

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