Dunkirk Hill Sleight Road and Roundway Devizes

Agricultural Land Classification

July 1999

Resource Planning Team Bristol FRCA Western Region Job Number 36/99 37/99 38/99

MAFF ref 45/00232



DEVIZES

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

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DEVIZES

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

- This report presents the findings of a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey of 74 5 ha of land at 6 sites around Devizes Field survey was based on 69 auger borings and 7 soil profile pits and was completed in June 1999
- The survey was conducted by the Resource Planning Team of FRCA Western Region on behalf of MAFF in its statutory role in the preparation of the Kennet Local Plan
- Apart from the published regional ALC map (MAFF 1977) which shows the sites at a reconnaissance scale the sites were previously surveyed in 1980 at a scale of 1 25 000 (ADAS 1980) The current survey uses the Revised Guidelines and Criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (MAFF 1988) and supersedes any previous ALC survey. Grade descriptions are summarised in Appendix I
- 4 This report covers three FRCA survey sites 36 38/99 which in this report are described under the identification numbers that they were given by the Kennet District Planning Office

Site 1

The ex MOD sports ground at Site 1 was not surveyed as it was decided it did not fall under the definition of agricultural land or a soft use of land formally in agricultural use

Site 15

- The land to the south of Coate Lane was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 3
- The 1980 survey showed the site to be Subgrade 3a with imperfect drainage. The soils found during the current survey are very similar being sandy with ochreous mottling and impaired drainage but changes to the grading system allow some of the land to be now mapped as Grade 2.
- At the time of survey the landcover at Site 15 was field beans

Site 29

- 9 The site on Dunkirk Hill Devizes was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 3
- The 1980 survey showed the site to be Subgrades 3b and 3c due to impaired drainage with the 3b land being next to Dunkirk Hill and the 3c land elsewhere. The actual profiles from the this survey showed some variability in their drainage that was confirmed by the current survey.

At the time of survey land cover at Site 29 was improved and unimproved pasture although several fields appeared to have been abandoned

Site 44

- The land at Roundway adjacent to the Devizes Garden Trading Estate was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 3
- This area was mapped as Grade 2 in 1980 with minor wetness limitations with ochreous mottling being found in the lower subsoils. The soils found during the current survey are very similar although changes to the grading system have now downgraded some of the land to Subgrade 3a.
- Land to the south west of this site was surveyed in early 1999 (FRCA, 1999) This shows two mapping units one of Grade 1 and nearer to the current survey site a unit of Subgrade 3a with a moderate wetness limitation. These findings were taken into account during the current survey
- 15 At the time of survey the landcover of the site was winter wheat

Site 45

- The land adjacent to Lay Wood to the south of Horton Road was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being mainly Grade 3 with a small area of Grade 4 next to the wood
- 17 This area of land was not covered by the 1980 survey
- 18 At the time of survey the landcover of the site was winter wheat

Site 46

- The land next to the old Hopton Barracks at Roundway Hill Farm was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 2
- This area was mapped as Grade 2 in 1980 with weathered chalk subsoils. The soils found during the current survey are very similar although changes to the grading system have now downgraded the land to Subgrade 3a.
- At the time of survey the landcover of the site was winter wheat in the northern field and cereal stubble in the southern field. There was also some land that included areas of hard standing and rough grass from the old barracks and light industry that was not surveyed.

Site 57

The land opposite Harebell Way at Coate Bridge was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 3

- The 1980 survey showed the site to be Subgrade 3a with imperfect drainage. The soils found during the current survey are very similar being sandy with ochreous mottling and impaired drainage but changes to the grading system allow some of the land to be now mapped as Grade 2.
- At the time of survey the landcover of the site was maize with some derelict land and farm buildings adjacent to Coate Lane

- The land adjacent to canal at Coate Bridge was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 3
- This site was mapped in 1980 as being mostly Subgrade 3a with a small area of Subgrade 3b with restricted drainage. Very similar soils were found during the current survey being poorly drained clays in the Subgrade 3b mapping unit and imperfectly sandier soils elsewhere but changes to the grading system allow some of the land to be now mapped as Grade 2.
- At the time of survey the landcover of the site was permanent grassland

Site 61

- The land at the junction of Sleight Road and Nursteed Road was mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being Grade 1
- This site was mapped in 1980 as Grade 1 with deep well drained sandy profiles. Very similar soils were found during the current survey.
- At the time of survey the landcover of the site was permanent grassland that appeared to have been abandoned

SUMMARY

The distribution of ALC grades is shown on the accompanying three 1 10 000 scale ALC maps. The detail of information shown at this scale is appropriate to the intensity of field survey but could be misleading if enlarged or applied to small areas. Areas are summarised in Table 1.

Site 15

32 The whole of Site 15 has been mapped as best and most versatile land. Most of the site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a (good quality) with a moderate wetness limitation due to slowly permeable subsoils. The lower part of the field next to the derelict farm buildings where the subsoils are lighter has been mapped as Grade 2 (very good quality) with a minor wetness limitation.

Table 1 Distribution of ALC grades Devizes

Grade	Area (ha)	% Surveyed Area (61 1 ha)
1	77	13
2	13 0	21
3a	25 5	42
3b	12 1	20
4	2 8	4
Other land	13 3	
Total site area	74 4	100

None of Site 29 has been mapped as best and most versatile land. The upper slopes of the site have moderate and severe limitations at Subgrade 3b (moderate quality) and Grade 4 (poor quality) due to irregular micro relief and localised wetness. The lower part of the site has moderate wetness limitations due to the slowly permeable nature of the parent Gault clay

Site 44

34 The whole of Site 44 has been mapped as best and most versatile land. Most of the site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a (good quality) with a moderate wetness limitation due to slowly permeable subsoils. The northern part of the field where the subsoils are lighter has been mapped as Grade 2 (very good quality) with a minor wetness limitation.

Site 45

35 The majority of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a (good quality) with a moderate wetness limitation. Two localised areas of wetness at Subgrade 3b (moderate quality) have been mapped next to Lay Wood and the new marina.

Site 46

The majority of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a (good quality) with a moderate workability limitation where silty clay topsoils overlie weathered chalk. The old sports ground has been mapped as Subgrade 3b (moderate quality) due to a moderate drought limitation while the field that adjoins Folly Road although variable is Grade 2 (very good quality) with a minor wetness limitation

Site 57

37 The whole of Site 57 has been mapped as best and most versatile land. Most of the site has been mapped as Grade 2 (very good quality) with a minor wetness limitation. The southern part of the field where the soil textures are heavier has been mapped as Subgrade 3a (good quality) with a moderate wetness limitation due to slowly permeable subsoils

The majority of this site has been mapped as Grade 2 (very good quality) with a minor wetness limitation. A localised area of more severe wetness at Subgrade 3b (moderate quality) have been mapped in the northern corner next to the canal

Site 61

39 The whole of Site 61 has been mapped as best and most versatile land. The site has been mapped as Grade 1 (excellent quality) with none or only very minor limitations to its agricultural use

CLIMATE

- Estimates of climatic variables for this site were derived from the published agricultural climate dataset. Climatological Data for Agricultural Land Classification. (Meteorological Office 1989) using standard interpolation procedures. Data for key points around the site are given in Table 2 below.
- Since the ALC grade of land is determined by the most limiting factor present overall climate is considered first because it can have an overriding influence by restricting land to a lower grade despite more favourable site and soil conditions. Parameters used for assessing overall climate are accumulated temperature a measure of relative warmth and average annual rainfall a measure of overall wetness. The results shown in Table 2 indicate that there is no overall climatic limitation.
- Climatic variables also affect the ALC grade through interactions with soil conditions. The most important interactive variables are Field Capacity Days (FCD) which are used in assessing soil wetness and potential Moisture Deficits calculated for wheat and potatoes which are compared with the moisture available in each profile in assessing soil droughtiness limitations. These are described in later sections.

Table 2 Climatic Interpolations Devizes

Grid Reference		ST 993 617	SU 017 603	SU 020 623
		Site 29	Site 61	Sites 15 57 59
Altitude (m)		90	120	130
Accumulated Temperature	(day C)	1442	1408	1396
Average Annual Rainfall (r		740	74 7	753
Overall Climatic Grade	•	1	1	1
Field Capacity Days		166	167	168
Moisture deficit (mm) V	Vheat	107	103	100
P	otatoes	98	94	90

Table 2 continued

Grid Reference	SU 027 628	SU 019 631
	Site 45	Sites 44 46
Altıtude (m)	130	135
Accumulated Temperature (day C)	1395	1390
Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	753	757
Overall Climatic Grade	1	1
Field Capacity Days	169	169
Moisture deficit (mm) Wheat	99	99
Potatoes	89	89

RELIEF

Site 15

The altitude of the site ranges from 131m at Coate Lane to 145m at the southern end of the field. The site is gently sloping with no limitation to its agricultural use

Site 29

- The altitude of the site ranges from 80m opposite the public house at the bottom of Dunkirk Hill to 110m at the top of the hill. This site covers an area of unconsolidated landslips on the hill with localised areas where the gradient is above 7°. This has a moderate limitation to their agricultural use.
- The edge of the scarp contains an area of unconsolidated landslips. Therefore the southern three fields next to the built up area suffer from moderate and severe limitations to their agricultural use due to micro relief.

Site 44

The altitude of the site ranges from 130m near the trading estate to 141m on Folly Road The site is level and gently sloping with no limitation to its agricultural use

Site 45

The site straddles the 130m contour and is level with no limitation to its agricultural use

Site 46

The altitude of the site ranges from 135m near the old barracks to 150m on the hillside above Roundway. The site is level and gently sloping with no limitation to its agricultural use

The altitude of the site ranges from 131m at Coate Lane to 134m at the southern end of the field. The site is gently sloping with no limitation to its agricultural use

Site 59

The site straddles the 130m contour and is level with no limitation to its agricultural use

Site 61

The altitude of the site ranges from 116m on Sleights Lane to 120m near Wayside Farm, on Nursteed Road The site is level with no limitation to its agricultural use

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- The underlying geology of the sites is shown on the published geology maps (IGS 1967 and 1974)
- Soils were mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales at a reconnaissance scale of 1 250 000 (SSEW 1983) Soil information is also available at a more detailed level for those sites on the eastern side of the town in the 1 25 000 scale survey (SSEW 1973)

Site 15

- The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging to the Stert Series² on the higher ground and the Ardington Series³ on the lower ground along Coate Lane
- The soils found during the current survey were as expected from the geology map and reconnaissance soil map but indicated that the Ardington Series³ might extend further up the slope towards the southern end of the field than the detailed soils map suggested

Site 29

- The underlying geology of the area is mapped as being Upper Greensand (sand and sandstone) on the sloping ground and Gault Clay on the flats both from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- The soils are mapped as being from the Denchworth Association⁴ on the flat land and the Wickham 3 Association⁵ on the sloping land
- The soils found during the current survey were very similar to those described by the SSEW with poorly drained clayey soils on the flat land and soils with variable drainage on the

sloping land following landslips and spring lines These soil types match the profiles that are expected from the types of geology that are mapped in the site

Site 44

- The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging to the Stert Series² on the ground adjacent to the trading estate and to the Ardington Series³ on the ground along Folly Road
- The soils found during the current survey were as expected from the geology map and reconnaissance soil map but indicated that the Ardington Series³ extends further towards the trading estate than the detailed soils map suggested

Site 45

- The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association and in greater detail as belonging mainly to the Coate Series and to the Broadmoor Series on the ground next to Lay Wood and the new marina
- These descriptions and distributions were borne out by the current survey

Site 46

- The underlying geology of the site is shown to be mostly Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era There is a small area of Lower Chalk also from the Upper Cretaceous Era in the northern part of the site above Roundway
- The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging to the Ardington Series³ on the ground around the old sports ground and Roundway Farm and the Stert Series² on the ground leading up the hill above Roundway and the old barracks
- These descriptions and distributions were borne out by the current survey although there is an area of shallow soils over sandstone centred on the old sports ground

Site 57

- The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- 70 The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging to the Puckshipton Series⁸ for most of the site with a small area of soils from the Ardington Series³ at the southern end of the site

71 These descriptions and distributions were borne out by the current survey

Site 59

- 72 The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- 73 The soils are mapped at a reconnaissance scale as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging mainly to the Puckshipton Series⁸ Small areas of soils from the Urchfont⁹ and Ardington Series³ are mapped in the south west corner of the site and from the Broadmoor Series⁷ in the north west corner next to the canal
- These descriptions and distributions were largely borne out by the current survey although the areas of Urchfont⁹ and Ardington Series³ soils were not identified

Site 61

- 75 The underlying geology of the site is shown to be Upper Greensand from the Upper Cretaceous Era
- The soils are mapped as being from the Ardington Association¹ and in greater detail as belonging to the Urchfont Series⁹
- 77 These descriptions were entirely borne out by the current survey

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

The distribution of ALC grades found by the current survey is shown on the three accompanying 1 10 000 scale maps and areas are summarised in Table 1. The detail of information shown at this scale is appropriate to the intensity of field survey but could be misleading if enlarged or applied to small areas.

Site 15

- The lower land adjoining Coate Lane has been mapped as Grade 2 very good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil over greenish grey sandy clay loam subsoils and medium sand at depth. Common ochreous mottles are present in the upper subsoil, which is gleyed so the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class II (see Appendix II). With the sandy clay loam topsoil this imposes a minor wetness limitation. Soil pit 1 (38/99) is an example of these profiles. Due to the sand content of the profiles and the few stones (less than 5% hard rock) in the subsoils there is also a minor drought limitation.
- The majority of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium clay loam topsoil over grey sandy clay loam and sandy clay subsoils passing into a greenish grey sandy clay. Common ochreous mottles were observed to start above 40cm in the upper subsoils which are gleyed. Below this

the greenish grey sandy clay which has a low level of porosity was assessed as a slowly permeable layer. The profiles were assessed as Wetness Class III with a moderate wetness limitation. Soil pit 2 is typical of this mapping unit.

One isolated profile Asp 55 was developed over chalk rubble as expected from the SSEW soil maps. It was well drained and was assessed as Wetness Class I Grade 2 with a minor workability limitation. Due to the level of this survey it could not be mapped individually and is included in the Subgrade 3a mapping unit.

Site 29

- This site falls into two neat units. The three fields below the crest of the hill have variable soils due to the unstable nature of the geology and as such have a variety of differently graded profiles. The two fields in the south west corner have been mapped as a Grade 4 unit having severe limitations overall due to micro relief. The soil profiles include some at Subgrade 3b with a moderate wetness limitation due to the presence of springs and clay subsoils with low porosity and others at Grade 2 with a minor wetness limitation. The third field in the south east corner is similar but the limitation due to micro relief is not as severe and the land was mapped as Subgrade 3b.
- The fields lower down the slope and on the level ground at the bottom are more uniform in the landform. Here the land has a moderate wetness limitation. The profiles typically consist of heavy and medium clay loam topsoils some of which are organic over clay subsoils. They are gleyed from the surface and have slowly permeable layers starting below the topsoil allowing them to be assessed as Wetness Class IV.

Site 44

- The northern half of the site has been mapped as Grade 2 very good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium and sandy clay loam topsoils over greenish grey sandy clay loam and sandy clay subsoils. Common ochreous mottles are present in the lower subsoils which are gleyed. They also have low porosity and were assessed as slowly permeable layers so the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class II. With the topsoil textures this imposes a minor wetness limitation. Soil pit 6 is an example of these profiles. Due to the sand content of the profiles and the few stones (5% hard rock) in the subsoils there is also a minor drought limitation.
- The majority of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium clay loam topsoil over grey sandy clay loam and sandy clay subsoils passing into a greenish grey sandy clay. Common ochreous mottles were observed to start above 40cm in the upper subsoils which are gleyed. Below this the greenish grey sandy clay has a low level of porosity and was assessed as a slowly permeable layer. The profiles were therefore assessed as Wetness Class III with a moderate wetness limitation. Soil pit 2 is similar to this mapping unit.
- An isolated profile in the south west corner had a similar profile except that the topsoil was heavier heavy clay loam which at Wetness Class III is Subgrade 3b. At the current level of survey this was incorporated into the Subgrade 3a mapping unit

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- The majority of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium clay loam topsoil over light olive brown and greenish grey sandy clay subsoils. Common ochreous mottles were observed to start above 40cm in the upper subsoils which are gleyed lying above the greenish grey sandy clay which has a low level of porosity. This lower subsoil was assessed as a slowly permeable layer and the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class III with a moderate wetness limitation. Soil pit 3 is typical of this mapping unit.
- Two smaller areas of Subgrade 3b moderate quality land were mapped on the edges of the site. Here the slowly permeable layer was found to start in the upper subsoil, which was heavier than the rest of the site. The profiles were therefore assessed as Wetness Class IV.

Site 46

- The southern part of the site adjoining Folly Road has been mapped as Grade 2 very good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium and sandy clay loam topsoils over greenish grey sandy clay loam and sandy clay subsoils. Common ochreous mottles are present in the lower subsoils which are gleyed. They also have low porosity and were assessed as slowly permeable layers so the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class II. With the topsoil textures this imposes a minor wetness limitation. Soil pit 6 is an example of these profiles. Due to the sand content of the profiles and the few stones (5% hard rock) in the subsoils there is also a minor drought limitation.
- The northern part of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a good quality land with a moderate workability limitation. The profiles are typically dark greyish brown silty clay topsoils over greyish brown silty clay upper subsoils and light grey weathered chalk to depth. They are well drained and were assessed as Wetness Class I. Rooting was observed in soil pit 4 to 80cm and within this depth there is sufficient moisture for droughtiness not to be the main limitation.
- The field where the old sports ground was adjacent to Roundway Farm has been mapped as Subgrade 3b moderate quality land. Here the profiles are typically very dark grey medium clay loam topsoil over a greenish grey sandy clay subsoil and shallow over sandstone bedrock as shown by soil pit 5. Roots were observed to 55cm in the weathered portion at the top of the bedrock. This allows the profile to provide enough moisture for there to be a moderate limitation due to droughtiness.
- Areas of land around the old sports field which did not appear to have been cultivated or grazed were not surveyed

Site 57

The lower part of the site adjoining Coate Lane has been mapped as Grade 2 very good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil over greenish grey sandy clay loam subsoils and medium sand at depth. Common ochreous mottles are present in the upper subsoil which is gleyed so the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class II. With the sandy clay loam topsoil this imposes a minor wetness

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limitation Soil pit 1 (38/99) is an example of these profiles. Due to the sand content of the profiles and the few stones (less than 5% hard rock) in the subsoils there is also a minor drought limitation.

The southern part of this site has been mapped as Subgrade 3a, good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown medium clay loam topsoil over grey sandy clay loam passing into a greenish grey sandy clay. Common ochreous mottles were observed to start above 40cm in the upper subsoils which are gleyed. Below this the greenish grey sandy clay which has a low level of porosity was assessed as a slowly permeable layer. The profiles were assessed as Wetness Class III with a moderate wetness limitation. Soil pit 2 is typical of this mapping unit.

Site 59

- The majority of the site has been mapped as Grade 2 very good quality land. The soil profiles typically consist of a dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil over greenish grey sandy clay loam subsoils and medium sand at depth. Common ochreous mottles are present in the upper subsoil which is gleyed, so the profiles were assessed as Wetness Class II. With the sandy clay loam topsoil this imposes a minor wetness limitation. Soil pit 1 (38/99) is an example of these profiles. Due to the sand content of the profiles and the few stones (less than 5% hard rock) in the subsoils there is also a minor drought limitation.
- A small area of land adjacent to the canal has been mapped as Subgrade 3b moderate quality land with a moderate wetness limitation. The profiles here are similar to parts of Site 45 with heavy clay loam topsoils over clay and sandy clay subsoils with sandier horizons at depth. The profiles are gleyed below the topsoil and have slowly permeable layers in the subsoils. They were assessed as Wetness Class IV.

Site 61

The whole of this site has been mapped as Grade 1 excellent quality land. The profiles typically consist of fine sandy loam to depth. The soils are well drained and were assessed as Wetness Class I. Although there are a few stones in the topsoil (less than 5% hard rock) and the soils have a relatively high sand content there is no droughtiness limitation because the fine sand fraction is capable of holding significant amounts of moisture which are available to crops. Soil pit 1 (37/99) is typical of these profiles.

Huw Lloyd Jones Resource Planning Team FRCA Bristol July 1999

¹ Ardington Association Deep well drained fine and cause loamy glauconitic soils. Some valley bottom soils are affected by groundwater. Locally perennially wet

- ² Stert Series Permeable calcareous clayey colluvial soils over chalk rubble at 30 to 80cm depth Well drained, subsoil rarely wet
- ³ Ardington Series Deep permeable fine loamy soils with greenish glauconitic subsoils passing to bedded loam and sand at depth. Some similar fine loamy over clayey soils in places. Well drained
- ⁴ Denchworth Association Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils. Some fine loamy over clayey soils with only slight seasonal waterlogging and some slowly permeable calcareous soils. Landslips and associated irregular terrain locally.
- ⁵ Wickham 3 Association Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy over clayey and coarse loamy over clayey soils and similar more permeable soils with slight waterlogging. Some deep coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater and landslips with irregular terrain locally.
- ⁶ Coate Series Deep moderately permeable prominently mottled fine loamy soils with greenish glaucomute subsoils passing to bedded loam and sand at depth. Some similar slightly mottled soils on higher ground and a few fine loamy over clayey soils in places. Seasonally waterlogged soils affected by fluctuating groundwater are also found. The subsoils are wet for most of the winter and spring.
- ⁷ Broadmoor Series Stoneless prominently mottled calcareous clayey soils over greenish glaucomitic sandy loam or sandy clay loam below 30cm depth. Seasonally waterlogged soils affected by fluctuating groundwater are also found. Upper subsoil are wet for most of the winter and early spring, while the lower subsoils are wet for most of the year. There is a risk of seasonal flooding.
- ⁸ Puckshipton Series Deep moderately permeable prominently mottled coarse loamy soils with greenish glauconitic subsoils passing to bedded loam and sand at depth. There are some similar sandy soils in places Seasonally waterlogged soils are affected by fluctuating groundwater and subsoils are wet for most of the winter and spring.
- ⁹ Urchfont Series Deep permeable coarse loamy soils with greenish glauconitic subsoils passing to bedded sand at depth. Some similar sandy soils in places. They are well drained and the subsoils are rarely wet

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APPENDIX I

DESCRIPTION OF GRADES AND SUBGRADES

Grade 1 excellent quality agricultural land

Land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly include top fruit soft fruit salad crops and winter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality.

Grade 2 very good quality agricultural land

Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown but on some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than Grade 1

Grade 3 good to moderate quality agricultural land

Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops timing and type of cultivation harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in Grades 1 and 2.

Subgrade 3a good quality agricultural land

Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops especially cereals or moderate yields of a wide range of crops including cereals grass oilseed rape potatoes sugar beet and the less demanding horticultural crops

Subgrade 3b moderate quality agricultural land

Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops principally cereals and grass or lower yields of a wider range of crops or high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year

Grade 4 poor quality agricultural land

Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (e.g. cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In most climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties in utilisation. The grade also includes very droughty arable land.

Grade 5 very poor quality agricultural land

Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing except for occasional pioneer forage crops

Source MAFF (1988) Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales Revised Guidelines and Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land MAFF Publications Alnwick

APPENDIX II

DEFINITION OF SOIL WETNESS CLASSES

Soil wetness is classified according to the depth and duration of waterlogging in the soil profile

Wetness Class I

The soil profile is not wet within 70 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years

Wetness Class II

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 31 90 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 70 cm for more than 90 days but not wet within 40 cm depth for more than 30 days in most years

Wetness Class III

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for 91 180 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 70 cm for more than 180 days but only wet within 40 cm depth for between 31 and 90 days in most years

Wetness Class IV

The soil profile is wet within 70 cm depth for more than 180 days but not within 40 cm depth for more than 210 days in most years or if there is no slowly permeable layer within 80 cm depth it is wet within 40 cm depth for 91 210 days in most years

Wetness Class V

The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for 211 335 days in most years

Wetness Class VI

The soil profile is wet within 40 cm depth for more than 335 days in most years

Notes The number of days specified is not necessarily a continuous period

In most years is defined as more than 10 out of 20 years

Source Hodgson J M (Ed) (1997) Soil Survey Field Handbook Soil Survey Technical Monograph No 5 Silsoe

APPENDIX III

ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN SURVEY DATA

Soil pit and auger boring information collected during ALC survey is held on a computer database and is reproduced in this report. Terms used and abbreviations are set out below. These conform to definitions contained in the Soil Survey Field Handbook (Hodgson, 1997).

1 Terms used on computer database in order of occurrence

GRID REF National 100 km grid square and 8 figure grid reference

LAND USE At the time of survey

WHT	Wheat	SBT	Sugar Beet	HTH	Heathland
BAR	Barley	BRA	Brassicas	BOG	Bog or Marsh
OAT	Oats	FCD	Fodder Crops	DCW	Deciduous Wood
CER	Cereals	FRT	Soft and Top Fruit	CFW	Coniferous Woodland
MZE	Maize	HRT	Horticultural Crops	PLO	Ploughed
OSR	Oilseed Rape	LEY	Ley Grass	FLW	Fallow (inc Set aside)
POT	Potatoes	PGR	Permanent Pasture	SAS	Set Aside (where known)
LIN	Linseed	RGR	Rough Grazing	OTH	Other
BEN	Field Beans	SCR	Scrub		

GRDNT Gradient as estimated or measured by hand held optical clinometer

GLEY SPL Depth in centim to gleying or slowly permeable layer

AP (WHEAT/POTS) Crop adjusted available water capacity

MB (WHEAT/POTS)

Moisture Balance (Crop adjusted AP crop potential MD)

DRT Best grade according to soil droughtiness

If any of the following factors are considered significant Y will be entered in the relevant column

MREL	Microrelief limitation	FLOOD	Flood risk	EROSN	Soil erosion risk
EXP	Exposure limitation	FROST	Frost prone	DIST	Disturbed land
CHEM	Chemical limitation				

LIMIT The main limitation to land quality The following abbreviations are used

OC	Overall Climate	ΑE	Aspect	EX	Exposure
FR	Frost Risk	GR	Gradient	MR	Microrelief
FL	Flood Risk	TX	Topsoil Texture	DP	Soil Depth

CH	Chemical	WE	Wetness	WK	Workability
DR	Drought	ER	Erosion Risk	$\mathbf{W}\mathbf{D}$	Soil Wetness/Droughtiness

ST Topsoil Stoniness

TEXTURE Soil texture classes are denoted by the following abbreviations

S	Sand	LS	Loamy Sand	SL	Sandy Loam
SZL	Sandy Silt Loam	CL	Clay Loam	ZCL	Silty Clay Loam
ZL	Silt Loam	SCL	Sandy Clay Loam	C	Clay
SC	Sandy clay	ZC	Silty clay	OL	Organic Loam
P	Peat	SP	Sandy Peat	LP	Loamy Peat
PL	Peaty Loam	PS	Peaty Sand	MZ	Marine Light Silts

For the sand loamy sand sandy loam and sandy silt loam classes the predominant size of sand fraction will be indicated by the use of the following prefixes

Fine (more than 66% of the sand less than 0 2mm)

M Medium (less than 66% fine sand and less than 33% coarse sand)

C Coarse (more than 33% of the sand larger than 0 6mm)

The clay loam and silty clay loam classes will be sub divided according to the clay content M Medium (<27% clay) H heavy (27 35% clay)

MOTTLE COL Mottle colour using Munsell notation

MOTTLE ABUN Mottle abundance expressed as a percentage of the matrix or surface described

F few <2% C common 2 20% M many 20 40% VM very many 40%+

MOTTLE CONT Mottle contrast

F faint indistinct mottles evident only on close inspection

D distinct mottles are readily seen

P Prominent mottling is conspicuous and one of the outstanding features of the horizon

PED COL Ped face colour using Munsell notation

GLEY If the soil horizon is gleyed a Y will appear in this column. If slightly gleyed an S will appear

STONE LITH Stone Lithology One of the following is used

HR	All hard rocks and stones	SLST	Soft oolitic or dolimitic limestone
CH	Chalk	FSST	Soft fine grained sandstone
ZR	Soft argillaceous or silty rocks	GH	Gravel with non porous (hard) stones
MSST	Soft medium grained sandstone	GS	Gravel with porous (soft) stones

SI Soft weathered igneous or metamorphic rock

Stone contents are given in % by volume for sizes >2cm >6cm and total stone >2mm

STRUCT The degree of development size and shape of soil peds are described using the following notation

Degree of development	WA Adher	Weakly developed ent	WK	Weakly developed
	MD develo	Moderately oped	ST	Strongly developed
Ped size	F C	Fine Coarse	M VC	Medium Very coarse
Ped Shape	S GR SAB PL	Single grain Granular Sub angular blocky Platy	M AB PR	Massive Angular blocky Prismatic

CONSIST Soil consistence is described using the following notation

L Loose VF Very Friable FR Friable FM Firm VM Very firm EM Extremely firm EH Extremely Hard

SUBS STR Subsoil structural condition recorded for the purpose of calculating profile droughtiness G Good M Moderate P Poor

POR Soil porosity If a soil horizon has poor porosity with less than 0 5% biopores >0 5mm a Y will appear in this column

IMP If the profile is impenetrable to rooting a Y will appear in this column at the appropriate horizon

SPL Slowly permeable layer If the soil horizon is slowly permeable a Y will appear in this column

CALC If the soil horizon is calcareous with naturally occurring calcium carbonate exceeding 1% a Y will appear this column

2 Additional terms and abbreviations used mainly in soil pit descriptions

STONE ASSESSMENT

V Visual S Sieved D Displacement

MOTTLE SIZE

EF Extremely fine < 1mm M Medium 5 15mm

VF Very fine 1 2mm> C Coarse > 15mm

F Fine 2 5mm

MOTTLE COLOUR May be described by Munsell notation or as ochreous

(OM) or grey (GM)

ROOT CHANNELS In topsoil the presence of rusty root channels might be

noted as RRC

MANGANESE CONCRETIONS Assessed by volume

N None M Many 20-40% F Few <2% VM Very Many >40%

C Common 2 20%

POROSITY

P Poor less than 0 5% biopores at least 0 5mm in diameter G Good more than 0 5% biopores at least 0 5mm in diameter

ROOT ABUNDANCE

The number of roots per 100cm ²		Very Fine and Fine	Medium and Coarse	
\mathbf{F}	Few	1 10	1 or 2	
C	Common	10 25	2 5	
M	Many	25 200	>5	
A	Abundant	>200		

ROOT SIZE

VF	Very fine	<lmm< th=""><th>M</th><th>Medium</th><th>2 5mm</th></lmm<>	M	Medium	2 5mm
F	Fine	1 2mm	C	Coarse	>5mm

HORIZON BOUNDARY DISTINCTNESS

 Sharp
 <0 5cm</th>
 Gradual
 6 13cm

 Abrupt
 0 5 2 5cm
 Diffuse
 >13cm

Clear 2.5 6cm

HORIZON BOUNDARY FORM Smooth wavy irregular or broken *

^{*} See Soil Survey Field Handbook (Hodgson 1997) for details

SITE NAI	ME	PR	OFILE NO	SLOPE	AND ASPE	ECT	LA	AND USE		A	v Raınfall	747 mm		PARENT MA	TERIAL	
Site 61 Si Devizes	leight Roa	d Pit	l (At Asp 6)	0			PG	GR		A.	то	1408 day	c	Cretaceous Up	pper Greensan	d
JOB NO		DA	TE	GRID I	REFERENC	E	DE	ESCRIBED B	Y	FC	C Days	167		PSD SAMPLES TAKEN		
37/99		18/	6/99	SU 019	0 6010		HLJ				imatic Grade	1		None		
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoning Size Ty Field M	pe and	Mottling Abundance Contrast Size and Colour	xe	Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape		Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	28	FSL	10YR4/2	1 / 2cm 2 / 2cm 3 / HR 7	ı (S&D)	None		None					G	MM&F		Clear Smooth
2	60	FSL	2 5Y 4/3	N (VI	S)	None		None	WKCSA	.B	VF	G	G	CF		Gradual Smooth
3	120	FSL	5Y 5/3	N (VI	(S)	None	None WKCSA			B	VF	G	G	FF		
Profile GI	eyed F ro n	Not :	gleyed		Available Water Wheat 216 mm							Final ALC	Grade	1		
Slowly Pe Horizon F		No S	SPL		Moisture I		Potate Vhea					Main Limiting Factor(s)				
Wetness (Class	I				ī	otat	oes 94 mi	71							
Wetness (Vetness Grade 1															
					Moisture E	Balance V	Vhea	it 113 n	ım			Remarks				
						I	Potat	oes 47 mi	n							
Droughtine						tiness Grade 1 (Calculated to 12				0 cm	1)	Under uti	iised/aban	iaonea 7		

SITE NA	ME	PR	OFILE NO	SLOPE	AND ASPE	LAND USE			Av	Raınfall	753 mm		PARENT MATERIAL				
Site 57 R Devizes	oundway	Pıt	1 (Asp 14)	1 No	rth		MZE			АТ		1396 day	С	Cretaceous Up	oper Greensan	d	
JOB NO		DA	ATE	GRID	REFERENC	Е	DESCRI	IBED B	Y	FC	Days	168		PSD SAMPLES TAKEN			
38/99		17,	/6/99	SU 019	00 6220	HLJ				matic Grade	1		None				
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoning Size Ty Field N	ype and	Mottling Abundance Contrast Size and Colour	e Mar Con	ngan ncs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape		Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form	
1	30	SCL	10YR4/2	None (V	IS)	FFFO (10YR6/6		Vone						CM&F		Clear Smooth	
2	50	SCL	2 5Y 4/2	No (V	IS)	CDFO (5YR5/6		lone	MDCSA	В	FR	M	G	CF		Clear Smooth	
3	80	SCL	5GY5/1	No (V	IS)	None	N	None	MDCSA	В	FR	M	G	FF		Clear Wavy	
4	95+	MS	5GY4/2	Non (V	IS)	None	None MDC		MDCAE	3	FR	М	G	FVF	_		
Profile G	leyed Fron	n 30 c	m		Available	Water W	heat	119 n	ım			Final ALC Grade 2					
Slowly Pa Horizon F		No S	SPL		Moisture I		otatoes Theat	111 m 100 m				Main Limit	ing Factor(s) Wetness a	nd droughtine	ess	
Wetness	Class	II				Po	otatoes	90 mi	n								
Wetness (<u>,</u>						
					Moisture							Remarks					
						Po	otatoes	21 mr	n								
					Droughtin	ess Grade 2		(Calc	ulated to 120) cm))						
I.									r								

	The same of the sa															
SITE NAI	ME	PR	OFILE NO	SLOPE	AND ASPE	ECT	LAND U	JSE		Av	Raınfall	753 mm		PARENT MA	TERIAL	
Site 15 R Devizes	oundway	Pit	2 (Asp 54)	3 No	th		BEA			ΑТ	o	1396 day	С	Cretaceous Ur	oper Greensan	d
JOB NO		DA	TE	GRID	REFERENCI	E	DESCRI	BED B	Y	FC	Days	168		PSD SAMPLE	ES TAKEN	
38/99		17/	6/99	SU 022	0 6210	HLJ				matic Grade	1		None			
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Size Ty	Stoniness Abundance Size Type and Contrast Field Method Size and Colour		e Man Cond				Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	26	MCL	10YR3/2	None (V	IS)	None	N	None						MF		Clear Smooth
2	38	SCL	10Y 5/1	None (V	(S)	FDFO (10YR6/6			MDCSA	В	FR	M	G	CF		Gradual Smooth
3	54	sc	10Y 5/1	Nn (V	(S)	CDFO (7 YR5/6		one	WKCSA	В	FR	M 	G	FF		Clear Smooth
4	80 +	SC	5G 5/1	None (V	(S)	MDFO (7 5YR5/6		one	WKCSA	В	FM	P	P	FVF		
Profile Gi	leyed Fron	n 38 c	m		Available \	Water W	'heat	108 m	ım			Final ALC	Grade	3 a		
Slowly Po Horizon F Wetness (From	54 c. III	m		Moisture D		otatoes Theat	110 m				Main Limit	ing Factor(s) Wetness		
				Potatoes 90 mm												
Wetness (tness Grade 3a Moisture Balance Wheat 8 mm									Remarks						
						Po	otatoes	20 mr	n							
Droughtiness Grade 2 (Calculated to 120 c) cm))									

SITE NAME PROFILE NO		SLOPE	AND ASPE	ECT	LAND USE			Av	/ Raınfall	753 mm		PARENT MA	TERIAL			
Site 45 R Devizes	oundway	Pit :	3 (Asp 36)	0			WH	Т		ГА	го	1395 day	С	Cretaceous Upper Greensand		d
JOB NO		DA	TE .	GRID I	REFERENC	E	DES	CRIBED B	Y	FC	Days	169		PSD SAMPLE	ES TAKEN	
38/99		17/6	5/99	SU 026	60 6270		HLJ			Climatic Grade		1		None		
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoning Size Ty Field M	pe and	Mottling Abundanc Contrast Size and Colour		Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape		Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	27	MCL	10YR4/4	5/ HR T	Total (VIS)	None		None						CF		Clear Smooth
2	54	sc	2 5Y 5/3	N (VI	(S)	CDFO (10YR5/		None	MDCSA	В	FR	М	G	CF		Clear Smooth
3	90 +	sc	10GY5/1	N (VI	(S)	CDFO (7 5YR5/		None	MDCAE	В	FM	P	P	FVF		
Profile Gl	eyed Fron	n 27 cn	n		Available '	Water W	Vheat	114 n	ım			Final ALC	Grade	3a		
Slowly Pe Horizon I	From	54 cn	n		Moisture I		Potatoes 108 mm Wheat 99 mm					Main Limit	ing Factor(s) Wetness		
Wetness (III 3a				Pe	otatoe	s 89 mi	n							
VI CINCSS V	Moisture Balance Wheat 15 mm				n			Remarks								
						Pe	otatoe	s 19 mi	n							
					Droughtiness Grade 2		2	(Calculated to 120		0 cm)					
'							,	•								

SITE NA					E AND ASPECT			LAND USE			v Raınfall	757 mm		PARENT MATERIAL			
Site 46 R Devizes	oundway	Pit	4 (Asp 3)	1 Sou	th East		WH	IT		A	то	1390 day	С	Cretaceous Up	pper Greensan	d	
JOB NO		DA	TE	GRID	REFERENC	E	DES	SCRIBED B	Y	F	C Days	169		PSD SAMPLI	ES TAKEN		
38/99		21/	5/99	SU 019	0 6350		HLJ	ī			Climatic Grade 1 Exposure Grade 1			None			
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours		Type and Contrast Size and Colour			Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape		Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form	
1	28	ZC	10YR4/2	N (V	(S)	None		None						CF		Clear Smooth	
2	63	ZC	2 5Y 5/2	5%HR1	t I (VIS)	None	None		MDCSA	В	FR	М	G	CF		Gradual Smooth	
3	110 +	СН	2 5Y 7/1	100 / CI	ł (VIS)	None		None	MDCSA	В	FR	М	G	FVF ¹			
Profile Gl	eyed Fron	n Not	gleyed		Available Water Wheat 122 mm							Final ALC Grade 3a					
Slowly Pe Horizon F		No S	PL		Moisture D		Potatoes 105 mm Wheat 98 mm					Main Limit	ing Factor(s) Workabılı	ity		
Wetness	Class	I				P	otatoe	es 87 mr	n								
Wetness	Vetness Grade 3a																
											Remarks						
						P	otatoe	es 18 mr	n			l – roots se	en to 80cm	ı			
					Droughtin	ess Grade 2	2	(Calc	ulated to 80	cm))	H3 is cha					
l									I								

SITE NAME PROFILE NO SLO					PE AND ASPECT			LAND USE			v Raınfall	753 mm		PARENT MATERIAL		
Site 46 R Devizes	oundway	Pit :	5 (Asp 19)	1 Sou	th East		ST	В		A	то	1396 day	С	Cretaceous Up	per Greensan	d
JOB NO		DA	TE	GRID	REFERENC	E	DE	SCRIBED B	Y	F	C Days	168		PSD SAMPLE	ES TAKEN	
38/99		24/0	5/99	SU 018	80 6310			HLJ			Imatic Grade xposure Grade	1		None		
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoning Size Ty Field N	pe and	Mottling Abundanc Contrast Size and Colour	e	Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape			Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	28	MCL	2 5Y 3/1	1 / HR 1	Total (VIS)									CF		Clear Smooth
2	42	SC	5GY6/1	5/ HR 1	T tal (VIS)	None	None		MDCAS	В	FR	M	G	CF		Abrupt Smooth
3	60 +	MSST	5G 4/5	90 / MS (VIS)	STT tal	None		None Too Stony		ıy	Too Stony	M ¹	G	FVF ²		
Profile Gl	eyed Fron	n Not g	leyed		Available '	Water W	/heat	t 74 mr	n			Final ALC	Grade	3b		.
Slowly Pe Horizon I		No S	PL		Moisture D		otato /hea					Main Limiting Factor(s) Droughtiness				
Wetness	Class	I				Pr	ntatn	es 87 mi	n							
Wetness (Grade	1														
					Moisture E	Balance W	/heat	t 24 n	ım			Remarks				
						Po	otato	es 12 n	ım			,				
Droughtiness Grade 3b (Calculated to 60 cm))	¹ – assume ² roots se	a en to 55cm						

SITE NAME PROFILE NO SLO					AND ASPE	ECT	LAND USE			ŀ		· ·		PARENT MA	TERIAL	
0.121.12				32012		,				Av	Rainfall	753 mm				
Site 44 R Devizes	oundway	Pit 6	г Аѕр 29)	0			WH	łT		AT	CO	1396 day	C	Cretaceous Up	per Greensan	d
JOB NO		DAT		GRID	REFERENC	E	DES	SCRIBED B	Y	FC	Days	168		PSD SAMPLI	ES TAKEN	
38/99		24/6	/99	SU 015	3 6285		HLJ			į .	matic Grade	1		None		
Horizon No	Lowest Av Depth (cm)	Texture	Matrix (Ped Face) Colours	Stoning Size Ty Field M	pe and	Mottling Abundance Contrast Size and Colour		Mangan Concs	Structure Ped Developme Size and Shape		Consistence	Structural Condition	Porosity	Roots Abundance and Size	Calcareous	Horizon Boundary Distinctness and form
1	30	MCL	10YR4/2	1/ HR 7	T 1 I (VIS)	None		None		. ,				CF		Abrupt Smooth
2	65	SCL	2 5Y 4/2	5/ HR 1	tal (VIS)	FFFO (10YR6/6		None	MDCSA	В	FR	М	G	CF		Clear Smooth
3	90 +	sc	5GY5/1	N e(VI	(S)	CDFO (7 5YR5/		None	MDCSA	в	FM	М	P	FF		
Profile Gl	eyed Fron	n 65 cm			Available \	Water W	/heat	121 n	ım			Final ALC	Grade	2		. 4
Slowly Pe Horizon F	rom	65 cm	i		Moisture D		otatoe Vheat					Main Limit	ing Factor(s) Wetness a	nd droughtine	ess
Wetness (H				Po	otatoe	es 87 mi	m							
Wetness (Grade	2	Moisture Balance Wheat 23 mm								·					
						Po	otatoe	es 24 m	m			Remarks				
Droughtiness Grade 2 (Calculated to 120 cm))									