

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN
POLICE STATION, KEMPSEY
(18/38/G/06)**

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**AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR
MALVERN HILLS LOCAL PLAN, POLICE STATION, KEMPSEY (18/38/G/06)**

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
3a	3.8	64
3b	2.1	36

- 1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3a is soil wetness.
- 1.3 The main limitation to the agricultural use of land in Subgrade 3b is soil wetness.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The site was surveyed by the Resource Planning Team in May 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 5.9 ha site is situated to the north of Kempsey, near Worcester. The land immediately to the north and east of the site is predominantly in agricultural use. The land to the south and west of the site is predominantly in urban use.
- 2.3 The survey was requested by MAFF in connection with the Malvern Hills Local Plan.
- 2.4 At MAFF Land Use Planning Unit's request this was a detailed grid survey at 1:10000 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 cereals.

3 CLIMATE

3.1 The following interpolated data are relevant for the site (SO 855498) :

Average Annual Rainfall (mm)	634
Accumulated Temperature above 0°C January to June (day °C)	1487

3.2 There is no overall climatic limitation on the site

3.3 Other relevant data for classifying land include:

Field Capacity Days (days)	136
Moisture Deficit Wheat (mm)	111
Moisture Deficit Potatoes (mm)	105

4 SITE

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

4.2 These factors do not impose any limitations on the agricultural use of the land.

5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

5.1 The solid geology of the area is comprised of Mudstones.

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

AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION

- 6.1 Subgrade 3a - occupies 3.8ha (64%) of the survey area.
- 6.1.1 The soil has a sandy clay loam texture over clay to depth, with few or no stones within the profile. The depth to the slowly permeable layer places these soils in Wetness Class III.
- 6.1.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.
- 6.2 Subgrade 3b - occupies 2.1ha (36%) of the survey area and is found mainly in the east of the site.
- 6.2.1 The soil typically has a sandy clay loam or clay loam texture overlying clay to depth. Observations of gleying and the depth to the slowly permeable layer place these soils in Wetness Class IV.
- 6.2.2 The main limitation to the agricultural use of this land is soil wetness.

6.3 SUMMARY OF AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION GRADES

Grade/Sub-grade	Area in Hectares	% of Survey Area
3a	3.8	64
3b	2.1	36
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Totals	5.9	100
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